

IJO 02-25

Meyers, Robert (COE)

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2002 11:13 AM
To: Marques, Javier (DIST11)
Subject: Fishing Tournament

Javier,

I wanted to provide you with a written response to the question you posed to me last week about a letter Commissioner Martinez wishes to send out as Fishing Tournament Chairman as part of the South Florida Inner-City Games. I understand that the County Attorney spoke to you, after he and I had a chance to discuss this matter, but I thought it was important to provide you with something a bit more formal. In addition to discussing this matter with the County Attorney, I also spoke to the Ethics Commission's general counsel. You advised me that Commissioner Martinez is planning to use his official letterhead in seeking sponsorship for the fishing tournament. Moreover, Bob Ginsburg advised me that he believed that the last sentence of the letter should be revised and you indicated your office would make these changes.

From my perspective, the question is whether this letter amounts to soliciting a gift, and if it does, is the solicitation permissible under the County Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Ordinance. I conclude that Commissioner Martinez's letter whereby he is soliciting sponsors for the fishing tournament is not a violation of the County Ordinance because he is soliciting on behalf of the County for official business. The reason for this conclusion is that this is a County-sanctioned event, the County is co-hosting the tournament, and purpose of the tournament is to reduce juvenile delinquency in our community.

If you have any questions concerning the above, feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Robert Meyers

A Message From The Honorable Joe A. Martinez

Dear Friend,

Did you know that in Florida, one-third of all delinquency referrals are youth between the ages of 11 and 14? Nationally, 1 in 5 violent crimes with juvenile victims occur between 3 PM and 7 PM on school days. *But involvement in after school and summer programs helps at risk kids to stay on the right track!*

The South Florida Inner-City Games (SFICG) is the local licensee of the national Inner-City Games Foundation, chaired by superstar and activist Arnold Schwarzenegger. Locally, we provide after school, summer camp and sports programs to middle school aged youth through partnerships with our community's public schools and parks. We are making a difference.

You have an opportunity to help us by participating as a sponsor of the first annual South Florida Inner-City Games fishing tournament on July 27 and 28, 2002 at the Miami Outboard Club and Black Point Marina.

Please take a moment to review the enclosed Sponsorship benefits and the brochure. I know that you will agree that this is a worthwhile organization and will join me in supporting this event.

Best regards,

The Honorable Joe A. Martinez
Commissioner, District 11
Miami-Dade County

Fishing Tournament Chairman
Honorable Joe A. Martinez
Commissioner
Miami-Dade County

Fishing Tournament Sponsor
Montenay Power Corp.