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Courthouse Center Building  
175 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Suite 1101  
Miami, Florida 33128  
Telephone: (305) 579-2594  
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Miami-Dade County  
Commission on Ethics &  
Office of the Inspector  
General

Fax

To: *Commissioner Diaz de la Portilla* From: Robert Meyers, Executive Director

Fax: (305) 375-4838 Pages: 2, including coversheet

Phone: Date: 3/20/00

Re: *Request for Opinion* CC:

Urgent  For Review  Please Comment  Please Reply  Please Recycle

*Per your request.*

*Robert Meyers*

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: *3/20/00*  
Re: *Request for Opinion* CC: \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Per your request.*

*Robert Meyers*

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# Memo

**To:** Commissioner Miguel Diaz de la Portilla  
Board of County Commissioners, District Eleven

**From:** *RM*  
Robert Meyers, Executive Director  
Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

**Date:** 03/20/00

**Re:** Request for Ethics Opinion

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I received your memorandum dated March 16, 2000 in which you request an opinion regarding your participation in the Payphone Services Contract. I conferred with County Attorney Robert Ginsburg and he and I agree that there seems to be no legal conflict of interest for a county commissioner to participate in and vote on an item when a commissioner's sibling has been hired by one of the parties in a case where that commissioner has no financial or technical connection to the parties or the sibling. Please understand that I do not have the legal authority to issue you a formal and binding written opinion on this matter; this power rests solely with the Ethics Commission.

As you know, the Ethics Commission ordinance describes the process by which formal opinions are given. It requires a written submission to our office. Once the request is received, staff prepares a draft opinion and the item is scheduled for the next Ethics Commission meeting. Once the Ethics Commission has had the opportunity to review the draft opinion at a public meeting, a written opinion will be issued. The next Ethics Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

If you wish the above item to receive full consideration by the Ethics Commission at the March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, please contact me at your earliest convenience.