



INQ
00-21

September 19, 2000

ETHICS COMMISSIONERS

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ARDYTH WALKER
STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL

Mr. Rory E. Dosh, President
Brothers Marine Construction
1956 N.E. 148th Terrace
North Miami, FL 33181-1135

Re: Registration Fees (2-11.1)

Dear Mr. Dosh:

Your letter dated August 24, 2000 addressed to Mayor Penelas and the County Commissioners was referred to our office for a response. The Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics interprets and enforces the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Ordinance, Section 2-11.1 of the Dade County Code. Subsection (s) of 2-11.1 covers the lobbying regulations to which you refer in your letter. Please understand that all municipalities in Miami-Dade County, including Coral Gables, must abide by all of the provisions contained within Section 2-11.1. The language of subsection (s) is fairly clear in that it refers to lobbyists as individuals who are advocating for a particular position and are engaged in such advocacy before a board of committee. In your case, Coral Gables requires a person seeking a building permit to appear before the Architectural Review Board.

In my opinion, the City Clerk properly applied the law and had the legal authority to charge you two registration fees. You were assessed two registration fees because you sought two distinct building permits. The ordinance specifically allows the government to charge a registration fee for each item. Finally, the fee of one hundred twenty-five dollars per item is established by ordinance. Currently, the City has adopted the position that it must charge one hundred and twenty five dollars per registration but is considering whether it is has the flexibility to charge less than the amount fixed by law.

I have enclosed a copy of the abovementioned ordinance for your review. If you wish to discuss this matter with me in greater detail, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Meyers", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Meyers
Executive Director

cc: Elizabeth Hernandez, City Attorney, City of Coral Gables
Virginia Paul, City Clerk, City of Coral Gables
Paul Philip, Senior Assistant, Office of the County Manager

Enc.

COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE - CORRESPONDENCE ASSIGNMENT

LOG NUMBER: 105530
CMO ASSIGNMENT: Philip
DEPT ASSIGNED TO : CLERK OF THE COURTS

DATE OF CORRESPONDENCE: 8/30/2000
DATE LOGGED AND ASSIGNED: 8/31/2000

SUBJECT: LOBBYIST REGISTRATION

FROM: Rory E. Dosh
REFERRED BY: PENELAS
FILE NUMBER:
DATE DUE: 9/14/2000

CROSS REFERENCES: CX 1-410

INTERIM RESPONSE FROM:

MANAGER _____ EXECUTIVE/SENIOR ASSISTANT _____ DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR _____

STATING:

MANAGER TO RESPOND _____ EXEC/SR.ASST. TO RESPOND _____ DEPT DIRECTOR TO RESPOND _____

PLEASE PREPARE A:

LETTER REPORT _____ MEMORANDUM _____ VERBAL RESPONSE _____ E-MAIL MESSAGE _____

TO:

CONSTITUENT MAYOR _____ COMMISSIONER _____ COUNTY MANAGER _____ OTHER _____

FROM:

_____ MAYOR (In Draft Form) - With Transmittal for the Manager's signature
_____ COMMISSIONER (In Draft Form) - With Transmittal Memo for the Manager's signature
_____ COUNTY MANAGER
_____ EXECUTIVE/SENIOR ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY MANAGER
 DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR
_____ OTHER

COPY/S TO: PENELAS

MAYOR
_____ COMMISSIONER
 COUNTY MANAGER
_____ EXECUTIVE/SENIOR ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY MANAGER
_____ OTHER

OTHER INSTRUCTIONS:

DATE CLOSED:

ATTENTION:

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL: Catherine Russo

Number of Pages (Including this page): 3

Fax Sent On: _____

Memorandum

To: County Manager
From: Alex Penelas, Mayor *AP*
Date: 8/30/00
Subject: Constituent Request(s)

Please review the following constituent(s) request(s):

Mr. Rory E. Dosh
1956 N.E. 148th Terrace
North Miami, FL 33181

Re: having to register as a lobbyist to pull a permit in Coral Gables

I have enclosed a copy of the letter(s) sent to my office. Kindly review the constituent request for appropriate action. Please direct any question and/or responses to Daisy Hernandez of my staff at (305) 375-5071.

As always, thank you for your prompt attention to these matters and continued cooperation.

RECEIVED
00 AUG 30 PM 3:28
COUNTY MANAGER'S
OFFICE