

FILE COPY  
MAILED 7/15/98  
GF-04

July 15, 1998

Mr. Kenneth Friedman  
16499 N.E. 19 Avenue, Suite 202  
North Miami, Beach, Florida 33162

**Re: Conflict of Interest Opinion**

Dear Mr. Friedman:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust is in receipt of your letter dated June 14, 1998 and your fax dated June 25, 1998, in which you request a Conflict of Interest Opinion. The Commission on Ethics considered your request on July 15, 1998 and rendered an opinion based on the following facts as stated in your letter: you are an elected member of one of the Miami-Dade County Community Councils; you are a member of a synagogue holding no official position with the synagogue; and your synagogue has a zoning item that will be coming before the Community Council on which you sit.

As a member of a Community Council, you meet the definition of "community council member" for purposes of the Miami-Dade County Code. Section 20-45 of the Miami-Dade County Code strictly prohibits a Community Council member from voting or participating in any way in any matter if the Community Council member "would or might, directly or indirectly, profit or be enhanced by the action of the Community Council." This section of the Code enumerates those relationships that would create a conflict of interest and accordingly bar a Community Council member's right to vote or participate in a given matter.

Based on the facts you have presented the Commission, the Commission holds that you may participate and vote on the zoning item that will be coming before your Community Council. There does not appear to be a conflict of interest as you are simply a member of the congregation and hold no formal position with this entity. Finally, the Commission recommends that when your Community Council debates this zoning item, you announce publicly that you are a member of the congregation, but are not involved with the synagogue in any formal capacity.

I have enclosed a copy of the relevant section of the Code for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers  
Executive Director

Enc.

**OPINIONS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION ON ETHICS ARE ADVISORY AND  
SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED IN ANY OTHER MANNER.**