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STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL

March 8, 1999

[REDACTED]
Programs and Special Events Coordinator
The Port of Miami
1015 North America Way
Miami, Florida 33132

RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION RQO 99-02

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on March 4, 1999 and rendered its decision based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an advisory opinion regarding possible conflicts of interest between your county employment and your civic work.

In your request, you advised the Commission that you serve as co-founder and member of the Board of Directors for the Miami Hemispheric Cultural Exposition (MHCE). MHCE has been tapped to organize a cultural program for Africando, a conference and exposition on African trade and investment. The seaport is a co-sponsor of the Africando conference. In your position with the port, you will coordinate the conference gala at the port and provide technical assistance for the conference and the cultural program. The concert, although coordinated by MHCE, will be produced by The Rhythm Foundation.

The Ethics Commission found that the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance does not prohibit you from serving as a board member of MHCE and working for the port on a project on which MHCE is a sponsor. An employee may participate in civic work as long as the outside involvement does not violate 2-11.1(g) (Exploitation of official position) and 2-11.1(h) (Prohibition on use of confidential information). The Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance does not bar your civic work as long as she does not reveal confidential information or exploit her official position.

Therefore, the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance does not preclude you from serving on the board of an organization that is co-sponsoring an event with the seaport.

If you have any questions regarding the opinion, please call Robert Meyers, Executive Director at (305) 579-2954 or Ardyth Walker, Staff General Counsel at (305) 579-2653.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Meyers", followed by a horizontal line.

ROBERT MEYERS
Executive Director