



VIA FACSIMILE (305) 876-8067

February 9, 2000

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Narinder Jolly
Miami-Dade Aviation Department
P.O. Box 592075
Miami, Florida 33159

RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 99-60

Dear Mr. Jolly:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on February 7, 2000 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an opinion regarding whether your son can accept a scholarship provided by the Rotary Foundation of Miami.

In your letter you advised the Commission that your son is a student at Georgetown University who received the Thomas Brown Mclelland Trust Scholarship from the Rotary Foundation of Miami. Your son received a forty-five hundred dollar (\$4500) scholarship in 1998-1999 but did not receive a scholarship award for the current academic year. Your son is planning to reapply for the scholarship for the 2000-2001 academic year. You are acquainted with some of the members of the Rotary Club who also contract with Miami-Dade County. However, you do not personally know any of the members of the scholarship committee. You are concerned about whether receipt of the scholarship is a violation of the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance.

The Commission found that The Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance does not prohibit your son from applying for and receiving a scholarship from the Rotary Foundation of Miami. The Conflict of Interest ordinance does not prohibit employees or their immediate families from seeking scholarships or transacting business with people who do business with the county as long as they do not improperly use their county employment to gain an advantage over other applicants in the process.

Therefore, The Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance does not prohibit your son from applying for and receiving a scholarship from the Rotary Foundation of Miami.

This opinion construes the Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance only and is not applicable to any conflict under state law. Please contact the State of Florida Commission on Ethics if you have any questions regarding possible conflicts under state law.

If you have any questions regarding the opinion, please call the undersigned 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", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ROBERT MEYERS
Executive Director