

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

final agreement with the Construction Manager for the South Terminal program.

The South Terminal program consists of eight different projects: Concourse H Modifications for International Gates; Concourse H Headhouse, Concourse J, South Terminal Expansion H-J, H-J Utility and Pavement Project and Concourse H-J Sewer and Related Work. Rodriguez and Quiroga Associates (RQA) is one of five architectural firms that are working on the eight projects. RQA is working on the H Terminal Improvements and the South Terminal projects. Hanscomb, Inc. is a cost estimating subconsultant to RQA.

The Commission found Hanscomb, Inc. has a conflict of interest in regard to an award as an independent cost estimating firm for the South Terminal program. Although not barred by the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance, Hanscomb may not serve as an independent cost estimator on the South Terminal program because Hanscomb has already provided cost estimates for portions of the program. The purpose of an independent cost estimator is to serve as a check on the estimates provided by the AE firms and the contractor. Hanscomb's independence of judgment may be comprised by the fact that it is already working on the project. Further, Hanscomb's role as an independent estimating firm will require it to check and confirm the work it has already completed. Therefore, Hanscomb, Inc. should not serve as an independent cost estimator for the South Terminal program.

This opinion constitutes 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.



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**ARDYTH WALKER**  
STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL

April 25, 2001

Christopher Allen  
Manager of Programs  
Dade Aviation Consultants  
P.O. Box 494040  
Miami, Florida 33159

**RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 01-41**

Dear Mr. Allen:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on April 24, 2001 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an opinion regarding any conflict between Hanscomb, Inc's work as a cost estimating subconsultant on a portion of the South Terminal program and a contract as an independent estimator on the South Terminal program.

In your letter, you advised the Commission that DAC recently issued a request for proposal for professional estimating firms to provide cost estimations for the construction phase of the South Terminal program. The estimating firm will provide an independent estimation of construction costs in comparison to the estimation figures provided by the architectural firms and the construction manager for the South Terminal program. DAC will use the independent cost estimation figures in their negotiation of a