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STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL

September 10, 2002

John W. Thornton, Jr., Esq.  
Thornton & Rothman, P.A.  
200 South Biscayne Boulevard  
Suite 2600  
Miami, FL 33131

**RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 02-101**

Dear Mr. Thornton:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on September 9, 2002 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an opinion regarding any conflicts created by your appointment to the Independent Review Panel.

In your letter, you advised the Commission that your spouse is an Assistant County Attorney. The County Attorney's office provides legal advice to the Independent Review Panel. The Assistant County Attorneys assigned to the Independent Review Panel are Ron Bernstein and Ken Drucker.

The Commission found the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance permits you to serve on the Independent Review panel. The Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance does not prohibit spouses of county employees from serving on county boards. Although in some cases, the county employee

would be restricted from disclosing confidential information, that section is not at issue here where your wife does not advise the Independent Review Panel.

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 this opinion, please call the undersigned at (305) 579-2594 or Ardyth Walker, Staff General Counsel at (305) 579-2653.

Sincerely Yours,

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

ROBERT MEYERS  
Executive Director