



March 5, 2003

Manuel Martinez  
551 SE 4th Street  
Hialeah, Florida 33010  
Miami, FL 33175

**RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 03-43**

**ETHICS COMMISSIONERS**

Kerry E. Rosenthal, Chairman  
Robert H. Newman, Vice Chairman  
Gail Dotson  
Guillermo Grenier  
Elizabeth M. Iglesias

**ROBERT A. MEYERS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**MICHAEL P. MURAWSKI**  
ADVOCATE

**ARDYTH WALKER**  
STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL

Dear Mr. Martinez:

I reviewed your request for an advisory opinion and I am rendering my opinion based on the facts stated in your letter. The Ethics Commission has not considered this matter.

You requested an opinion regarding your ability to contract with the county to provide Section 8 housing.

In your letter, you advised the Commission that you work for the Palm Springs Middle School as full time custodian and you would like to contract with the Miami-Dade Housing Agency to provide Section 8 housing. Section 8 is a federally-funded program which subsidizes landlords who rent to low-income tenants.

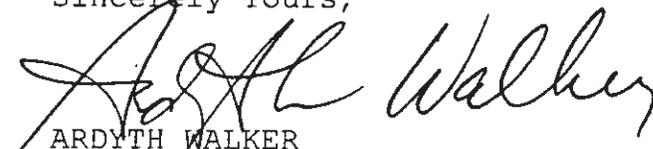
You may contract with the Miami-Dade Housing Agency to provide Section 8 housing. Section 2-11.1 (c) provides that "Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary herein, subsection (c) and (d) shall not be construed to prevent any employee...from entering into any contract, individually or through a firm, corporation, partnership or business entity in which the employee or any member of his or her immediate family has a controlling financial interest, with Miami-Dade County or any person or agency acting for Miami-Dade County as long as 1) entering into the contract would not interfere with the full and faithful discharge by the employee of his or her duties to the County, 2) the employee has not participated in determining the

subject contract awards or awarding the contract, and 3) the employee's job responsibilities and job description will not require him or her to be involved with the contract in any way, including but not limited to its enforcement, oversight, administration, amendment, extension, termination or forbearance. Since your job responsibilities with Palm Springs Middle School would not require your involvement in any aspect of the contract, you may contract with the Miami-Dade County Housing Agency to provide Section 8 housing.

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) 350-0616.

Sincerely Yours,

  
ARDYTH WALKER  
Staff General Counsel

/sb