



March 28, 2003

Oscar J. Edwards  
1820 N.W. 170<sup>th</sup> St.  
Miami, FL 33056

**RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 03-49**

**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. Edwards:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on March 27, 2003 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

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 Miami-Dade Housing Agency as a Housing Manager 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 also stated that you will be retiring on August 31, 2003.

The Commission found that you cannot currently 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 the Miami-Dade Housing Agency would require your involvement in any aspect of the contract, you may not contract with the Miami-Dade County Housing Agency to provide Section 8 housing. However, after your retirement you may apply to become a Section 8 landlord.

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

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