



April 30, 2003

Mario Barrios
14877 SW 175 Street
Miami, FL 33187

RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 03-63

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. Barrios:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on April 29, 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 Water and Sewer Department as a Construction Inspector 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.

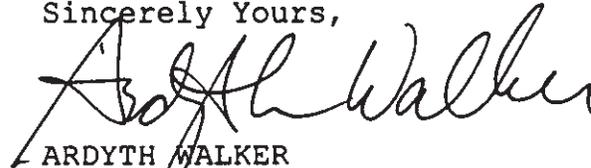
The Commission found that you may contract with the Miami-Dade Housing Agency to provide Section 8 housing. Section 2-11.1 (c) provides that "Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary herein, subsection (c) and (d) shall not be construed to prevent any employee...from entering into any contract, 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 the Miami-Dade
Water and Sewer Department 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ardyth Walker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

ARDYTH WALKER
Staff General Counsel

/sb