



**ETHICS COMMISSIONERS**

**Kerry E. Rosenthal, CHAIRPERSON**  
**Gail A. Dotson, VICE CHAIRPERSON**  
**Seymour Gelber**  
**Dawn E. Addy**  
**Brenda Rivera**

**ROBERT A. MEYERS**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**MICHAEL P. MURAWSKI**  
**ADVOCATE**

**ARDYTH WALKER**  
**STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL**

July 28, 2005

Michael Anderson  
Administrative Services Director  
Team Metro  
111 N.W. First Street  
Suite 1470  
Miami, FL 33128

**RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 05-79**

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on July 27, 2005 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an opinion regarding whether a Team Metro employee may have outside employment as a mortgage broker.

In your letter, you informed the Commission that Maria Barahona is a Liens Collection Processor for Team Metro. Barahona's duties include recording liens for unpaid fines for violation of the county's zoning and code enforcement regulations. Barahona is also responsible for administering payment agreements with property owners.

Barahona would like to become certified as a mortgage broker. Barahona would handle residential mortgages in Broward County.

The Commission found that the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance permits Barahona to have outside employment as a mortgage broker. Section 2-11.1(j) provides

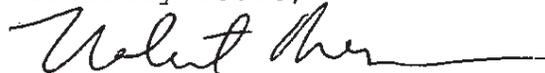
that no employee "shall accept other employment which would impair his or her independence of judgment in the performance of his or her public duties." Therefore, Barahona may serve as a mortgage broker as long as she only handles properties in Broward County and she does not work for a company that handles properties in Miami-Dade County.

Further, Barahona must submit a client list to you on a quarterly basis so that you may review it for any potential conflicts and report her outside employment on an annual basis.

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) 350-0616.

Sincerely Yours,



ROBERT MEYERS  
Executive Director