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March 10, 2006

Michael Nardone
URS Corporation
7650 Corporate Center Drive
Suite 401
Miami, FL 33126

RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 06-24

Dear Mr. Nardone:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on March 9, 2006 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an opinion regarding your team's ability to provide services under the North Terminal Area Improvements contract with the Aviation Department.

In 1997, Miami-Dade County and American Airlines entered into a contract to construct the North Terminal. The original agreement provided that the project would be constructed with county dollars but American Airlines would manage the construction. American Airlines will be the sole carrier occupying the North Terminal. The North Terminal will consist of a new terminal attached to existing concourses A-D. The project includes a regional commuter facility (American Eagle) domestic and international gates, ticket counters, a

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federal inspection services facility, an automated peopled mover and fueling facilities. Due to the complexity of the project and several unanticipated difficulties, the program has experienced significant delays.

In the summer of 2005, pursuant to the Fourth Amendment to the original lease and financing agreement between Miami-Dade County and American Airlines, the County took over management of the North Terminal Development Program. At that time, the County assumed a portion of the outstanding construction and AE contracts between American Airlines and various AE and construction firms. Parson-Odebrecht (POJV) was also retained to serve as general contractor on the project.

The scope of services for the North Terminal Area Improvements provides that the selected team will provide planning, design, construction document preparation, bidding, construction administration related to work at concourses A through D. The scope includes work at terminal buildings, landside and airside facilities including concessions, waiting areas, relocations, ticket counters, information centers, life safety, fire protection and security improvements. Specifically, the Aviation Department will use the consultants to provide any miscellaneous services not covered under existing or amended design and engineering contracts.

The Commission found that the URS team may provide services under the North Terminal Area Improvements agreement because the team members' current work should not overlap with the proposed scope of services under the new agreement.

Section 2-11.1(j) restricts persons covered by the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance from doing work that conflicts with their independence of judgment

in performing their County responsibilities. Pursuant to that section of the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance, the Ethics Commission has delineated certain areas including overlapping responsibilities that would impair a contractor's independent judgment in the performance of its duties for the County.

Two members of the URS Southern team, URS and Sanchez-Zenali and Associates, have provided services related to the North Terminal development.

URS contracted with American Airlines to plan, program and develop bid documents for the baggage handling system followed by coordination/management of the vendor design/installation and commissioning phases. URS also managed and coordinated the layout and operational logistics of the in-line baggage system with the Transportation Security Administration.

Sanchez-Zenali provided architectural services on the CD Infill Shell project as a subcontractor to Wolfberg Alvarez.

The URS Southern Team may provide services under the North Terminal Area Improvements agreement. The scope of work currently being provided by URS should not overlap with the scope of work under the North Terminal Area improvements.

The Ethics Commission also held that, if the URS team is awarded the contract, URS must provide the MDAD project manager and the Ethics Commission's Executive Director with a written report regarding its compliance with any restrictions contained in this advisory opinion related to the prime or any subcontractors within ninety days of the issuance of each task assignment or work order.

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

cc: Amado Gonzalez, Office of Capital Improvements

Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General