



RQO 07-54

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

October 29, 2007

Honorable Rebeca Sosa, County Commissioner
District 6
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 N.W. 1st Street, Suite 220
Miami, FL 33128

Dear Commissioner Sosa:

I understand you wish to know whether a conflict of interest exists if you participate in a discussion and vote on matters tied to a proposed school impact fee, which, if adopted, will be implemented by the Miami-Dade School Board and the Miami-Dade Public Schools. You are currently employed with the Miami-Dade Public Schools as a Curriculum/Program Facilitator for services related to South Florida Workshop.

The voting conflict section of the county's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance applies when an elected official has a special relationship with a party or entity that might be directly or indirectly affected by any action of the Board of County Commissioners or if an elected official is distinctly affected by Board action. In this particular case, any impact fee that is proposed or adopted does not affect you any differently than it would affect the public-at-large. Moreover, any change in the impact fee that could translate into programmatic benefits to those employed by Miami-Dade Public Schools would cover many programs and would not confer an isolated benefit to your employment. Therefore, you are free to discuss the issues surrounding the school impact fee and may vote on any items addressing this matter without violating the county ethics ordinance.

If you have any additional questions or wish to discuss the above, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust