



**ETHICS COMMISSIONERS**

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MICHAEL P. MURAWSKI  
ADVOCATE

ARDYTH WALKER  
STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL

November 18, 2009

The Honorable Carlos Gimenez  
Board of County Commissioners  
Miami-Dade County  
District Seven  
111 N.W. First Street  
Miami, Florida 33128

**RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION RQO 09-39**

Dear Commissioner Gimenez:

The Ethics Commission received your request for clarification of RQO 09-39. In your request for clarification, you asked the Ethics Commission to define the terms "personal", "slanderous" and "impertinent". The original opinion stated that the presiding officer of the Board of County Commissioners could curtail persons from making personal, slanderous and impertinent comments.

At its meeting on November 17, 2009, the Ethics Commission respectfully declined to define the terms because the Citizens' Bill of Rights and the Board of County Commissioners rules of procedure do not define the respective terms.

You also sought clarification regarding whether a person could make a negative comment about a widely reported action of a public official. The Ethics Commission further declined to opine on this question absent a specific set of facts.

If we can provide any further assistance,  
please call the undersigned at (305)579-2594  
or Ardyth Walker, Staff General Counsel at  
(305) 350-0616.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Meyers", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

ROBERT MEYERS  
Executive Director