

ETHICS COMMISSIONERS

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ARDYTH WALKER STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL March 22, 2011

Diane Collins
Acting Division Chief
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
111 N.W. First Street
Suite 17-202
Miami, FL 33128

RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION-ROO 11-7

Dear Ms. Collins:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on March 21, 2011 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an opinion regarding financial disclosure requirements for members of the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission.

In your request, you advised the Commission that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) established the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission in 2010. The Youth Commission is composed of 26 students between the ages of 15-18 and will advise the BCC on issues affecting teens and young people. The members will serve one year terms and may not serve longer than two years. The Youth Commission will hold an Annual Summit and produce an annual report. The Youth Commission does not have any delegated authority and may not enter into contracts or agreements.

The Commission found the members of the Youth Commission are not required to file financial disclosure. The members only serve one year terms and do not have authority over county matters. The Ethics Commission has previously

held that members of ad-hoc committees and other boards of limited duration are not required to file financial disclosure. The Youth Commission, while a standing entity, is similarly situated because the terms are limited to one year. Further, the Youth Commission does not have any delegated authority and does not have oversight of any county function. Finally, due to the age of the members, they are unlikely to have income, property or clients to report. Therefore, the Ethics Commission found the members of the Youth Commission do not have to file financial disclosure.

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