

Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)

From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2018 2:57 PM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: INQ 18-224, Casey Simpkins, Finance and Budget Administrator 1, County Public Housing and Community Development department (Limitations on Contracting and Outside Employment)

INQ 18-224 Simpkins

From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2018 2:56 PM
To: Simpkins, Casey (PHCD) <Casey.Simpkins@miamidade.gov>
Cc: Arrojo, Jose (COE) <Jose.Arrojo@miamidade.gov>; Murawski, Michael P. (COE) <Michael.Murawski@miamidade.gov>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <Martha.Perez2@miamidade.gov>; Turay, Radia (COE) <Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov>; Vanegas, John (PHCD) <John.Vanegas@miamidade.gov>; Dana, Jacqueline (PHCD) <Jacqueline.Dana@miamidade.gov>
Subject: INQ 18-224, Casey Simpkins, Finance and Budget Administrator 1, County Public Housing and Community Development department (Limitations on Contracting and Outside Employment)

Dear Mr. Simpkins:

You have recently become employed as a County employee working at the Miami-Dade County Public Housing and Community Development department (PHCD) as a Finance and Budget Administrator 1. You advise that you own and manage 4 rental properties, some of which you previously rented to tenants under contracts with PHCD as a Section 8 landlord. You have inquired if owning and managing rental properties would create any conflicts under the County Ethics Code which covers all County employees.

PHCD has confirmed that while you previously contracted with the department as a Section 8 landlord, you do not currently contract with the department as a Section 8 landlord. Consequently, none of the limitations on contracting with the County set out in the County Ethics Code would apply to you at this time. In the future, if you would like to contract with PHCD again as a Section 8 landlord, you would be required to obtain an ethics opinion prior to contracting with PHCD. The Section 8 Landlord opinion request form can be found at: http://ethics.miamidade.gov/library/forms/sec_8_landlord_app_cty_emps2017.pdf.

Please be advised however, that the COE has determined that employees who own and manage three or more rental units themselves, are engaged in outside employment. See COE Outside Employment Guidelines (2017). Given that you own and manage your 4 rental properties, you would have to file the outside employment paperwork ([Request for Outside Employment](#) and [Outside Employment Statement](#)) on a yearly basis.

You also inquired whether a prohibited conflict of interest would exist with respect to your mother contracting as a Section 8 landlord with PHCD. A separate ethics opinion was issued to her (SEC 18-25) which determined that she is not prohibited from serving as a Section 8 Landlord with PHCD because the Finance Division which employs you is separate from the Section 8 division which administers Section 8 programs, and firewalls are in place that isolate the functions of the two divisions See RQO 12-06 (PHCD employee may contract as a Section 8 landlord because she works in a separate PHCD division that does not oversee or administer the Section 8 program and firewalls have been established to isolate the work of the two divisions)

This opinion is based on the facts presented. If these facts change, please contact us.

Cordially,

Gilma (Mimi) Diaz-Greco
Staff Attorney



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From: Simpkins, Casey (PHCD)
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 1:15 PM
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>
Subject: Request for ethics opinion

Hello Ms. Diaz-Greco,

I have recently started working for Miami Dade County Public Housing and Community Development and I am requesting an ethics opinion. My mother and I both separately and jointly own rental properties throughout the county. They are multifamily, single family and one 10 unit apartment complex. My mother and I are currently vendors with the county as section 8 landlords. I have no current contract with MDC PHCD but my mother does. My position as the Finance and Budget Administrator does not give me the ability to award any contracts related to my outside employment. I currently manage some of the properties and have been for the past 25 years. It has never interfered with any of my employment responsibilities nor do I foresee it doing so in the future. Please let me know if more information is required for an ethics opinion to be issued.

Thanks,
Casey Simpkins, *Finance and Budget Administrator*
Public Housing and Community Development
Overtown Transit Village North
701 NW 1st Court, 16th Floor
Miami, FL, 33136
Phone: 786-469-2207

<http://www.miamidade.gov/housing/>