

**Meyers, Robert (COE)**

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**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 07, 2007 2:25 PM  
**To:** 'kcsmith@miamigov.com'  
**Subject:** Ethics Opinion

Dear Ms. Smith,

Pursuant to our telephone conversation, I am supplying you with an ethics opinion concerning a City Commissioner who is a member of church when that church is seeking funding from the City. As I understand it, the decision to grant funding to the church is before the City Commission and the City Commissioner wants to know whether he/she has a voting conflict because of his/her affiliation with the church. In order for a conflict of interest to exist, an elected official must have a special relationship with a party or entity appearing before the board or the elected official must uniquely benefit from the action/decision of the board. In your particular case, membership in a church would not be classified as a special relationship with the church and any funding that is awarded the church will not uniquely benefit the elected official. Therefore, no conflict of interest is created that would prohibit the City Commissioner from voting on funding to his/her church.

If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
(305) 350-0613