

Meyers, Robert (COE)

ING 07-184

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2007 3:09 PM
To: 'David M. Wolpin'
Subject: RE: Ethics Question

David,

I tend to agree with you that a conflict of interest is not automatically created by virtue of two board members being business associates with one another. I have to admit that I have my doubts about whether such arrangements look right. I guess I would distinguish a long-term, ongoing business relationship from one that is limited in scope and duration. The former presents far more potential problems than the latter. If one business partner had a private matter before the board, I agree with you that the other business partner should refrain from participating in or voting on the matter.

Hope this answers you question. Feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss.

Robert

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From: David M. Wolpin [mailto:DWolpin@wsh-law.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2007 12:37 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Ethics Question

Hi Robert- do you agree that aside from a potential specific item participation and voting abstention, the Miami-Dade County Ethics Code does not bar two members of the same governing body from being business associates of each other, where one member sells his business to the other member and the seller member serves as a consultant to the buyer member so that the business sale has a smooth transition? If, for example, the buyer member would later apply to the city for a variance for a tool shed at his home, both that member and his business associate, the seller member, would abstain.

Thanks



David M. Wolpin, Esq.
Member

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