

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2008 10:54 AM
To: 'mmarante@bayharborislands.net'
Cc: Thompson, Robert A. (COE)
Subject: RE: Committees - Sunshine Law (INQ 08-72)

Hello Marlene,

As we discussed today, the Town of Bay Harbor Islands invites residents each year to join several advisory committees. You asked if the County Ethics Code prohibits spouses or couples who live together to serve on the same committee.

Although the County Ethics Code does not address this issue specifically, I agree with you that when spouses or couples serve together on the same committee, the potential for Florida Sunshine Law violations is high.

Based on the appearance of impropriety in this situation, and in an effort to maintain transparency in government, your town may wish to discourage spouses or couples from serving together on the same committee.

Sincerely,

Victoria Frigo, Staff Attorney
 Miami-Dade Co. Commission on Ethics
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-----Original Message-----

From: Thompson, Robert A. (COE)
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2008 11:25 AM
To: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Cc: 'mmarante@bayharborislands.net'
Subject: FW: Committees - Sunshine Law

FYI.
 Robert Thompson

From: Marlene Marante [mailto:mmarante@bayharborislands.net]
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2008 11:29 AM
To: Thompson, Robert A. (COE)
Subject: Committees - Sunshine Law

Robert, each year we open up membership for the community to participate in various committees. This

year a couple of questions have come up that I'm not sure how to answer and I thought you could help me. If you cannot answer it, can you forward it to someone who can?

The questions are: Can a husband and wife be members of the **same** committee? They also asked me, what if there are two people who are not married, but live together; can they be members of the same committee?

Thank you for checking on this for me.

Marlene Marante, CMC
Town Clerk/Code Compliance Director
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