

Meyers, Robert (COE)

INQ 08-101

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2008 11:13 AM
To: Rosenthal, Oren (CAO); Gonzalez, Delivette (Mayor's Office)
Cc: Cuevas, Jr. R.A. (CAO); Price-Williams, Abigail (CAO); Sanchez, Gerald (CAO)
Subject: RE: Opinion Re:Endorsement of Candidate by the Mayor

Dear Ms. Gonzalez,

After speaking with the chairman of the Ethics Commission, we agree that Mayor Alvarez may use his official title in an open-letter to endorse a candidate for elective office. We have some reservations about the Mayor using his official County letterhead (including the County seal) to endorse a candidate for elective office. If the Mayor's question is whether he may use his County letterhead, then I would like to take this matter to the full Ethics Commission for consideration at our next meeting.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

From: Rosenthal, Oren (CAO)
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2008 10:42 AM
To: Gonzalez, Delivette (Mayor's Office)
Cc: Cuevas, Jr. R.A. (CAO); Price-Williams, Abigail (CAO); Sanchez, Gerald (CAO); Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Opinion Re:Endorsement of Candidate by the Mayor

You have asked this office whether the Mayor's submission of an open-letter to the voters of Miami-Dade County using his official title is permissible. We believe it is. Florida law allows the endorsement or criticism of a candidate for office by another elective official either by means of an open-letter or the publication of a newsletter. See Municipal Officers, Elections, Endorsements, Fla. AGO 78-133 (November 28, 1978). We understand that Robert Meyers of the Ethics Commission is sending a separate opinion which reaches the same conclusion.

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