

Ethics (COE)

INQ 08-52

From: Ethics (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2008 3:37 PM
To: 'Peter murray'
Subject: RE: Conflict

Dear Mr. Murray:

There is no rule that excludes lobbyists from sitting on county boards. The County Charter allows individuals to sit on multiple boards with a few exceptions. For example, you are not permitting to serve on the Commission on Ethics and sit on any other county board.

As far as access is concerned, I would assume any county board members may speak to the County Commissioners and/or the Mayor about board business. If the lobbyist wants to use that meeting as an opportunity to lobby the elected official, he would need to be properly registered before lobbying. I'm not convinced that a lobbyist who sits on a county board has better access than other lobbyists. Whether lobbyists in general enjoy special access to the elected officials than the public-at-large is a completely different issue and one that our office cannot answer. You really need to ask the elected officials whether they are willing to meet with everyone or only those who represent commercial interests.

Sincerely,

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

From: Peter murray [mailto:abde53@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2008 7:27 PM
To: Ethics (COE)
Subject: Conflict

Dear Sir/Madam

Can a lobbyist with Miami Dade County serve on Advisory Boards too? It seems that a lobbyist can get an unfettered access to the commissioners/mayor and Managers under the guise of appointed member of an advisory board.

Please see the attached as this was forwarded to me I hope you can clarify this via E Mail to me as soon as possible. This person also serves on multiple county boards. His business card attached to his e mail on Dade County portal may be a conflict.

Hope to get an answer in your earliest

Thanks

Peter Murray

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