

**Frigo, Victoria (COE)**

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**From:** Frigo, Victoria (COE)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 02, 2009 11:46 AM  
**To:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Subject:** INQ 09-79 Amy Perry, Mount Sinai, Community-Based Organization

Robert,

As you requested, I phoned Amy Perry this morning to discuss my interpretation of the Miami Beach Code at Section 2-481 regarding the definition of a community-based organization. I told her that the law would be stretched beyond its plain meaning to include a hospital such as Mount Sinai in the definition. Typical organizations that would fit within the definition would likely include those that offer housing or business opportunities in low-income neighborhoods. (I mentioned that Section 58-31 of the Miami Beach Code defines a community-based organization very specifically to be a nonprofit that provides affordable housing.)

She said that she had a philosophical problem with this interpretation, meaning that she felt that the City of Miami Beach should carve out an exception in its lobbyist code specifically for Mount Sinai. I suggested she bring that issue to the city commissioners, since they are the ones who drafted the legislation and specifically defined the lobbyist exception as a community-based organization (unlike the county commissioners who were more expansive and included all nonprofits).

She said she would consider contacting the city commissioners or requesting a formal opinion from the Ethics Commission. She will contact us again if she desires a formal opinion.

Victoria Frigo, Staff Attorney  
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**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 01, 2009 4:01 PM  
**To:** Frigo, Victoria (COE)  
**Subject:** FW: Mount Sinai - Community Based Organization

Victoria:

Can you handle this?

Thanks,

Robert

6/2/2009

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**From:** Amy Perry [mailto:Amy-perr@msmc.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 01, 2009 1:42 PM  
**To:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Subject:** RE: Mount Sinai - Community Based Organization

Thank you so much for your prompt response. Would you be able to give me a brief explanation of your conclusion? I don't want to waste anyone's time on the Ethics Commission if I missed something obvious.

Best regards,  
Amy Perry

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**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE) [mailto:RMEYERS@miamidade.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 01, 2009 1:37 PM  
**To:** Amy Perry  
**Subject:** RE: Mount Sinai - Community Based Organization

Dear Ms. Perry:

I consulted with the staff attorney for the Ethics Commission who handles the municipalities and she and I concur that Mount Sinai Hospital does not meet the definition of a community based organization set forth in Section 2-481 of the City of Miami Beach Code of Ordinances. Please understand that your question has not been presented to the Ethics Commission for its consideration. If you want a review by the full Ethics Commission, I can place your question on the agenda of our next-regularly scheduled meeting. If you decide to pursue this option, our staff attorney will present her recommended opinion. The Ethics Commission may approve the draft opinion or reach a different conclusion. Mount Sinai has every right to be present at the meeting and state its position on the record before the Ethics Commission issues its opinion.

If you decide you wish to have the matter heard by the Ethics Commission, please let me know within the next seven days. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Thanks,

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

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**From:** Amy Perry [mailto:Amy-perr@msmc.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2009 11:39 AM  
**To:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Subject:** Mount Sinai - Community Based Organization

Dear Robert –

Thank you for calling me back today. We would like to get your opinion if Mount Sinai may be considered a "Community Based Organization" under the Division 3. Lobbyist; Sec. 2-481. Definitions.

*"Community Based Organization* means a not-for-profit association or corporation organized under state or local law to engage in community development activities (including, but not limited to, housing and economic development activities) and has as its primary purpose the improvement of the physical, economic or social environment by addressing one or more of the critical needs of the area, with particular attention to the needs of people with low or moderate incomes."

Mount Sinai is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit, organization that has as its primary purpose the improvement of the social (defined as affecting human welfare) environment by addressing the critical needs of healthcare in the Miami Beach community as its ONLY acute care hospital. Mount Sinai provided \$32 million in charity care to meet the needs of people with low incomes in 2008. \$2.5 million in charity care was provided to the homeless of our community.

Mount Sinai's mission is to provide quality healthcare to its diverse community enhanced through teaching, research, community service and financial responsibility. We are the City of Miami Beach's largest employer and have the largest economic impact on our community providing \$259 million in salaries and wages to our community.

We have requested stimulus funding from the City of Miami Beach to strengthen our Emergency Room through new impact windows that will provide hurricane protection and energy efficiency. Our Emergency Room provides healthcare to all patients in need regardless of their ability to pay.

Please let me know your thoughts on this request.

Thank you for your time.

Amy

Amy Perry  
Senior Vice President  
Chief Operating Officer  
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