

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2010 4:21 PM
To: 'bret@jellydoughnut.com'
Subject: Coconut Grove Village Council (INQ 10-164)

Mr. Berlin,

In response to your recent questions about the Coconut Grove Village Council, we have determined that the Ethics Commission does not have jurisdiction over its members. This is because the Village Council was privately founded in the 1990s by residents of the City of Miami and was not created by an act of city or county government. Additionally, the Village Council has no governmental authority, but serves only as a forum to discuss issues that concern residents and businesses in Coconut Grove and to bring these issues to the attention of local government.

Furthermore, because they function within a privately established entity, members of the Coconut Grove Village Council are not required to file financial disclosure statements under the County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (i).

In the past, the Miami City Commission has granted the Coconut Grove Village Council the right to "piggy-back" on the City's election ballot in order to have the Village Council's slate of candidates added to the City's ballot. This appears to be a courtesy extended to the local residents, but the cost of piggy-backing is born entirely by the Coconut Grove Village Council, at no expense to the City. (See Resolution 09-00792.)

I hope this clarifies your questions. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Victoria Frigo, Staff Attorney

Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics
Direct Phone: 305 350-0601
Fax: 305 579-0273



19 West Flagler St., Suite 820
Miami, FL 33130

Miami-Dade County is a public entity subject to Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes concerning public records. E-mail messages are covered under such laws and thus subject to disclosure.