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STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL

October 27, 2011

The Honorable Luciano L. Suarez  
6356 SW 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
West Miami, FL 33144

RE: INQ 11-158

Dear Commissioner Suarez:

Joe Centorino asked me to respond to your question about potential conflicts that may arise for you as a City Commissioner in the City of West Miami if you were to enter into business dealings in the private sector as well as the public sector within Miami-Dade County.

Overall, the Ethics Code prohibits you or any entity in which you have a financial interest from doing business with the City of West Miami throughout your tenure as a City of West Miami Commissioner and for two years following your departure from the West Miami Commission. See Secs. 2-11.1 (c) and (q) of the County Code.

Additionally, you may not currently hold or acquire a financial interest in a business or property that creates divided loyalties for you. See Secs. 2-11.1 (l), (n) and (o). To minimize voting conflicts, you should also avoid business relationships with entities that might come before you as a City Commissioner. See Sec. 2-11. (d).

Other prohibitions could apply, depending on the circumstances. Enclosed is a copy of the County Ethics Ordinance that may provide additional guidance.

Please feel free to contact our office at any time if a particular question arises.

Sincerely,

  
Victoria Frigo  
Staff Attorney

Copy: Joe Centorino  
Enclosure: Conflict of Interest Brochure