

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 2:41 PM
To: Singer, Miriam (ISD); Hudson, Celia (ISD)
Cc: Cordova, Amelia (ISD); Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: RE: Outside Employment and Ethics Opinions Sought
Attachments: RQO 11-11 Amelia Cordova-Jiminez.PDF

Hello Miriam,

Joe asked me to follow up on your questions regarding ethics opinions issued to Ms. Cordova in light of her transfer to ISD.

Regarding RQO 11-11, attached, this opinion is valid and remains in effect. Regarding Ms. Cordova's Section 8 opinion (SEC 06-69), the substance of the opinion is unchanged, as long as neither Ms. Cordova nor any of her immediate family is employed by the Housing Agency.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

VICTORIA FRIGO, STAFF ATTORNEY

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From: Singer, Miriam (ISD)
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2012 5:57 PM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Cc: Hudson, Celia (ISD)
Subject: FW: Outside Employment and Ethics Opinions Sought

Hello Joe: This employee just transferred into Procurement Management and has offered the information regarding two COE opinions. It has been some time since the opinions were provided. Would you please review and advise me if you concur. May I have a copy of RQO-11-11 that is referenced in Rhonda Sibilias's Report? Thanks, Miriam

From: Cordova, Amelia (ISD)
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2012 5:51 PM
To: Singer, Miriam (ISD)
Cc: Millan, Luisa M. (ISD)
Subject: Outside Employment and Ethics Opinions Sought

Good Afternoon Miriam,

Pursuant to your request I am sending you this notification to advise that I no longer engage in consulting work with Simple Elegance, Inc.; the event planning firm of which I was president from 2006 - 2011. Please note that I did sign a Request for Outside Employment in June of last year to engage in such activities and was subsequently approved to do so. However, after discussions with my former business partner I decided it would be best to retire from such work. If you have any questions regarding this matter, I am always available to meet. I will be sure to immediately notify both you and Luisa, if the opportunity to re-engage in this line of work (or any other) arises in the future. Please rest assured that I will maintain management well apprised of any outside employment and that I will follow proper protocol in order to get appropriate approval to engage in any such services. See Attachment 1.

In addition, I would like to advise that my husband and I are owners of a rental property in the City of Miami, for which we accept Section 8 Vouchers. In 2006, I submitted a request to Ardyth Walker, Staff General Counsel, Ethics Commission, asking whether a County employee could also be a Section 8 Landlord. The opinion rendered by the Ethics Commission advised both my husband and I that we could contract with the then Miami-Dade Housing Agency to provide Section 8 housing, given that my responsibilities as an A&E Consultant Selection Coordinator with the then Office of Capital Improvements did not pose a conflict. I am attaching the opinion of the Ethics Commission and all associated paperwork for your review. See Attachment 2.

Lastly, I would like to divulge that my husband and I sought another Ethics opinion in April 2011 regarding his potential employment with an A&E firm that currently does business with the County. The Ethics Commission opinion rendered stated that my spouse may work for the company as long as he does not have a controlling financial interest in the corporation. In addition, the opinion stated that I would not be able to serve as a selection coordinator on those projects in which my husband's employer is bidding because my financial interests may be indirectly affected by my official actions. While the Ethics Commission ruled that my husband could in fact accept an employment offer from an A&E firm which does business with the County, we mutually decided that he would not accept any business opportunities which would hinder my work with the County in any way. Both Luisa and I spoke to then OCI Director, George Navarrete, and I advised that my husband would not accept any offers that hindered me from performing my job as an A&E Coordinator. Also, attached to communication is the request for opinion sent to Ardyth Walker and the Ethics Commission's subsequent determination regarding the matter. See Attachment 3.

I apologize for the long list of matters denoted above, but I want to make certain that you are fully apprised.

Thank you,
"Amy"

Amelia M. Córdova-Jiménez
A&E Consultant Selection Coordinator
Internal Services Department

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