



Via First Class Mail
and email at henry@hacontracting.com

July 31, 2012

ETHICS COMMISSIONERS

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GENERAL COUNSEL

MICHAEL P. MURAWSKI
ADVOCATE

MIRIAM S. RAMOS
DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL

Henry Angelo, III, President
H.A. Contracting Corp.
9500 NW 12th St., Bay 1
Miami, FL 33172

Re: County Contract Involving Emma Duffie and Alben Duffie (INQ 12-126)

Dear Mr. Angelo:

Your private company, H.A. Contracting Corp., has been awarded a County-owned property on which you are to build affordable housing. You asked if this award may be finalized in light of your company's employment of Emma Duffie and Alben Duffie.

Mrs. Duffie was a former Director of the County's Housing Agency Landfill Program. She resigned, not in good standing, from the County in 2006. Her husband, Alben Duffie, served as a board member of the Miami-Dade Housing Agency Development Corp. and had financial interests in properties related to Mrs. Duffie's resignation.

The County Ethics Commission has no jurisdiction to opine on the fitness of your private company to finalize a contract with the County based on the employment of Mr. and Mrs. Duffie. Certain subsections of the County Ethics Code are applicable to designated business owners with County contracts, but only to those contractors who have been identified by the Mayor. (*See* Sec. 2-11.1 (b)(13) of the County Code.) Currently, no contractors have been identified.

As a former County employee, Mrs. Duffie was prohibited from lobbying the County for two years following her resignation. (*See* Sec. 2-11.1 (q).) This prohibition ended in 2008.

Please be advised, however, that our lack of jurisdiction is in no way an endorsement of contracts between your company and the County. Because the public trust was seriously damaged by the activities of Emma Duffie when she was a County employee, we remind you of your shared responsibilities with the County in maintaining integrity and transparency when the public's resources are involved.

Sincerely,


Victoria Frigo
Staff Attorney

Copies: Gregg Fortner at FORTNER@miamidade.gov; Jose Rodriguez at JROD@miamidade.gov; Jorge Cibran at JCIBRAN@miamidade.gov; Alan Eson at AESON@miamidade.gov; Terrance Smith at ASMITH2@miamidade.gov