



Via First Class Mail  
and  
email at [sp1636@miamidade.gov](mailto:sp1636@miamidade.gov)

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January 24, 2012

Phyllis W. Sloan-Simpkins, President  
MAJESTIC'S YOUTH & ARTS ACADEMY, INC.  
19000 NW 8<sup>th</sup> Court  
Miami, FL 33169

Re: INQ 12-13

Prohibition on appearing before any County Board or Agency on behalf of a nonprofit organization

Dear Ms. Sloan-Simpkins:

This is to clarify your limitations in applying for grants in the County based on the facts that you presented:

- You are employed as a firefighter with the County Fire Rescue Department.
- You serve as a County advisory board member on the Cultural Affairs Council.
- You are the President of a nonprofit organization, MAJESTIC'S YOUTH & ARTS ACADEMY, INC.

As an employee of the Fire Rescue Department, you may not make a presentation or appear before any County agency or board seeking a grant. *See County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (m)(1).*

As a member of the Cultural Affairs Council, you may not make a presentation or appear before the Cultural Affairs Council seeking a grant. *See County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (m)(2).*

As a member of the Cultural Affairs Council, you may not vote or participate in any way on any matters that would affect the nonprofit organization on which you serve as President. *See County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (v).*

Additionally, as both a County employee and advisory board member, you are prohibited from exploiting your official position to secure special privileges or exemptions for yourself or the nonprofit organization on which you serve as President. *See County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (g).*

MAJESTIC'S YOUTH & ARTS ACADEMY, INC., may accept a grant from the County and enter into contracts with the County as long as you have not

attempted to influence an official decision to benefit the nonprofit organization in any way. Please be advised that the County Ethics Commission has interpreted this prohibition very expansively to include any communications, in any form, intended to influence an individual within the County to take an official action.

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

Sincerely,



VICTORIA FRIGO  
Staff Attorney

Copies: Cultural Affairs Board  
Deborah Margol at [DEBO@miamidade.gov](mailto:DEBO@miamidade.gov)  
Sue Camp at [SCAMP@miamidade.gov](mailto:SCAMP@miamidade.gov)

*See also* Miami-Dade Ethics Opinion INQ 10-201.