

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 12:34 PM
To: 'Bob Welsh'
Cc: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: INQ 12-34 Private property owner

Commissioner Welsh,

You asked if you may negotiate on behalf of the City of South Miami with a property owner in South Miami, Mr. Facundo Bacardi, regarding the re-development of Mr. Bacardi's property (currently leased to Winn-Dixie).

Unless your city commission has authorized you to do so (and we strongly recommend that the commission not authorize you to do so), you may not negotiate with Mr. Bacardi privately, outside of a public meeting. Because of your family's friendship with Mr. Bacardi, some citizens might suspect that you are using your public office to benefit yourself through some private arrangement. *See* County Ethics Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (g).

If Mr. Bacardi (or anyone on his behalf) approaches you privately seeking a benefit from the city (for example, rezoning the property or selling the property to the city), Mr. Bacardi and those who represent him must register as lobbyists in the city before speaking with you about it. Of course, Mr. Bacardi may continue to discuss subjects with you not likely to come before the city commission, such as your musical interests. *See* City of South Miami Code at Sec. 8A-5.

If a matter involving Mr. Bacardi comes before your commission for a vote, you may vote on the matter as long as you do not have a business-type relationship with Mr. Bacardi or you or your immediate family would not profit from the vote. *See* County Ethics Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (d).

Finally, I'd like to call your attention to the signature line in your email, "It's not the crime that gets you, it's the cover-up." This is an inaccurate and dangerously misleading statement. Many individuals have been prosecuted by the Ethics Commission for committing a crime, regardless of whether they have covered it up or not. Simply do not commit the crime. Period.

VICTORIA FRIGO, STAFF ATTORNEY
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.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Welsh [mailto:bobnoxious928@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2012 8:38 AM

To: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Subject: RQO

My brothers Chris and Derek Welsh have been good friends (college roommates) with Facundo Bacardi, owner of the Winn/Dixie property in South Miami, for a long time. Their friendship started when they were in Gables High. They had the best band and threw the best parties (my parents were always traveling) and it was Facundo's mission to know where the best parties were. I would suspect my surviving brother Derek and Facundo have had some sort of business relation over the years, being that I remember my father asking Derek if Facundo was going to back the band at a time when he had a recording contract with SBK Records. Derek has thanked Facundo on the credits page of a few of his albums. I as an elected official feel that I can put aside Derek and Facundo's friendship, put aside the fact that Facundo has thrown much money into South Miami's elections over the past few years and negotiate as a Commission member with Facundo to get the best deal for the citizens of South Miami regarding Facundo's re-development of the Winn/Dixie property. Please address this issue within a few months because the lease for the Winn/Dixie will be up in about a year.

Bob Welsh 3056674176. "it's not the crime that gets you, it's the cover-up"

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 28, 2011, at 10:36 AM, "Frigo, Victoria (COE)" <FRIGOV@miamidade.gov> wrote:

> Mr. Welsh,
> Your question about campaign contributions falls within Florida
> Election Laws. Our Executive Director, Joe Centorino, has asked me to
> forward your email to the Florida Division of Elections for further guidance.
> You may also wish to call the Elections Hotline at 877 868-3737.
> Additional contact information is available at
> <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/contact-us/division-addresses.shtml>.

> Sincerely,

> VICTORIA FRIGO, STAFF ATTORNEY
> Phone: 305 350-0601
> Fax: 305 579-0273

> Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics
> 19 West Flagler St., Suite 820
> Miami, FL 33130

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Bob Welsh [mailto:bobnoxious928@yahoo.com]
> Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2011 11:47 AM
> To: Ethics (COE)
> Subject: Anonymous gift of \$1000 cash

> Hi, I'm Bob Welsh. I do a lot of volunteering in South Miami. I
> witnessed bogus ethics charges lobbed against Commissioner
> Beasley, Commissioner Newman and Commissioner Sellars when I came with
> other friends to testify of their good character in front of your Board.
> I have been described as South Miami's Paul Revere. I can put 3800
> flyers under the 3800 accessible doormats in six days. I suppose there
> are a lot of people associated with losing political campaigns that
> would like to shut me up. Recently, within the last week or so I came
> home and found an envelope under my door with my name on it that said,
> "Stay Active". The note had \$1,000 cash in it.
> What is the total amount of money that I may spend in each calendar
> year informing people of issues like our City Manager's desire to
> expand South Miami borders northwest to Tropical Park and southwest
> to the Palmetto and 878 WITHOUT having to become a political action committee?
> How much may I spend per calendar year advocating for one particular
> candidate or the other without having to become a political action
> committee? Can I consider any of this money reimbursement for money
> already spent on paper and toner for advocacy already performed. RSVP
> ASAP Thank You. "Bicycle Bob" Welsh, 7437 SW 64 Ct, S.Miami, Fl 33143
> 3056674176 Sent from my iPad