

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:28 AM
To: 'clerks@miamigov.com'
Cc: Chiaro, Maria J. ; Mendez, Victoria; Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: Definitions of Community Organizations and Neighborhood Associations (INQ 12-43)

Ms. Thompson,

At our meeting to discuss lobbyist registration, you asked for examples of *bona fide community organizations* as identified in the City of Miami Code at Sec. 2-654 (h)(2).

A few examples of *bona fide community organizations* are listed in the City of Miami Code at Sec. 2-654 (h)(2), such as--

- a taxpayers' association
- a civic or homeowners' association
- a public interest group
- a chamber of commerce, or
- a merchants' association.

Although not exactly the same term, *community-based organizations* are defined in several sections of the County Code. (See Miami-Dade Co. Code at Secs. 2-11.2.1 (a)(3), 26-23 A and 26-37 A.)

Community-based organizations are characterized as follows:

- any individual or any agency, group, organization, society, association or partnership that is operating as a nonprofit entity or acting on behalf of a nonprofit entity
- whose primary purpose is to provide a community service to improve or enhance the well-being of the community at large or to improve or enhance the well-being of certain individuals within this community.

You also asked for a definition of a *neighborhood association*. Again, we find insight from the same section of City of Miami Code cited above, which excludes individuals from paying a registration fee when they appear as volunteers and without compensation "on behalf of the community's interest" representing "a civic or homeowner's association."

Although the County Code does not define *neighborhood association*, and the Ethics Commission has not expressly interpreted it, we assume the term includes homeowners' and condominium associations, as well as other similar entities that represent the community's interest.

Joe Centorino and I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to better understand our somewhat similar lobbying ordinances. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

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.

