

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 2:09 PM
To: 'Barbara Watts'; 'wattsb@fiu.edu'
Cc: vobparchives@biscayneparkfl.gov; Centorino, Joseph (COE); Hearn, John
Subject: INQ 12-60 Watts, Village Newsletter

Vice-Mayor Watts,

You asked if Village Commissioners and/or citizens may editorialize in the Village Newsletter, which is published with government funds. These questions fall within the Florida Sunshine Law at Fla. Stat. Sec. 286.011 and are best answered by your Village Attorney. The County Ethics Commission is not empowered to interpret state law.

Unquestionably, you and another commissioner may not debate Village business in the Village Newsletter outside of a duly noticed public meeting. Appointing citizens to engage in the editorial debate rather than the commissioners themselves may not be a solution either. Again, your Village Attorney will advise you on these limitations.

Finally, an excellent source of information about the Sunshine Law and Public Records Act can be found at the State Attorney General's website at <http://myfloridalegal.com>.

Sincerely,

VICTORIA FRIGO, STAFF ATTORNEY

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From: Barbara Watts [<mailto:barbarawatts@comcast.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 12:18 PM
To: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Cc: vobparchives@biscayneparkfl.gov
Subject: Sunshine Law queries RE: Village Newsletter and Editorials on Issues. ASAP Meeting tonight!

Hi Ms. Frigo,

I'm a newly elected to the Commission of the Village of Biscayne Park, and I need your advice on two issues that are on the agenda of tonight's Commission meeting. I talked with our lawyer, Mr. John Hearn, yesterday, but I still have questions and need counsel regarding allowing editorial columns by Commissioners in the Village Newsletter and inclusion in the Newsletter of Point-Counterpoint essays on an issue that is may be a referendum issue in the fall.

I'm at home right now, but will have to go to work later. Her's my contact information:

H: 305-895-8053

C: 803-4701

W: 305-919-5967

I'd greatly appreciate hearing from you.

Barbara Watts
Vice-Mayor
Village of Biscayne Park