

## Frigo, Victoria (COE)

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**From:** Frigo, Victoria (COE)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 2:13 PM  
**To:** Penichet, Breno P. (COE)  
**Cc:** Centorino, Joseph (COE)  
**Subject:** Miami Lakes Committee (INQ 13-13)

Breno,

You asked if the Ethics Code would be violated if you served on a committee established by the Mayor of Miami Lakes to study the viability of the town's forming its own police department. Currently, the town of Miami Lakes contracts with Miami-Dade County for police services. You are an investigator employed by the Miami-Dade Ethics Commission.

We understand that you have agreed to follow the directive of the Executive Director of the Ethics Commission, Joe Centorino, and decline to serve on the committee. Although you could bring useful, first-hand experience to the town study, you might also be placed in a position of divided loyalties when making recommendations that affect your employer, Miami-Dade County. (See the Miami-Dade County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (g), which prohibits using your official position to secure special privileges or exemptions for yourself or others.)

Additionally, as you are aware, the County Ethics Code provides a minimum standard of conduct for public employees. To ensure and enhance public confidence in local government, County employees must not only adhere to the principles of ethical conduct as set forth in the Code, they must also avoid the appearance of impropriety at all times.

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

**VICTORIA FRIGO, STAFF ATTORNEY**

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