
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2014 3:18 PM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Barbara Jordan, Miami-Dade County Commissioner, (Prohibition on participation in settlement negotiations-Section 2-11.1(z)- INQ 14-177

INQ 14-177

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2014 3:12 PM
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: INQ - Barbara Jordan, Miami-Dade County Commissioner, Section 2-11.1(z)

Assistant County Attorney Gerald Sanchez inquired on behalf of County Commissioner Barbara Jordan regarding whether she could meet with the Mayor of Miami Gardens while there was a pending law suit between the City and the County, regarding an ordinance change that could affect the law suit. Section 2-11.1(z) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics provides that, "Neither the Mayor, a County Commissioner nor any member of their staff shall participate in settlement negotiations of claims or lawsuits, including, but not limited to, contract scope or compensation adjustments involving the County without prior approval of the Board of County Commissioners."

Commissioner Jordan was planning to meet with Mayor Gilbert of Miami Gardens to discuss legislation that would amend County Ordinances in connection with a zoning matter. The pending lawsuit includes an issue concerning zoning conflicts that have occurred between the City of Miami Gardens and the County. There is also a pending Resolution before the BCC that would authorize the County Attorney to negotiate a settlement to the lawsuit. Commissioner Jordan was not planning to directly discuss the law suit or any possible settlement thereof. Miami Gardens is situated within her district and she found it appropriate to clarify issues that have occurred there by proposing an ordinance change.

I informed Mr. Sanchez, that Commissioner Jordan could meet with Mayor Gilbert to discuss the legislation, since legislation is peculiarly within her scope of duties as a County Commissioner, provided that she made no reference to the existing lawsuit or any possible settlement thereof, as well as no reference to the Resolution authorizing the County Attorney to settle the lawsuit.

Joseph M. Centorino

Executive Director and General Counsel
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
19 W. Flagler Street, Suite 820
Miami, FL 33130
Tel: (305) 579-2594
Fax: (305) 579-0273
ethics.miamidade.gov

