

**MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST
MEETING SUMMARY
JULY 25, 2007
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Complaints

07-12: The Commission on Ethics granted the Respondent's Request for Continuance.

07-13: The Commission on Ethics ratified the proposed settlement agreement entered into between the Office of the Advocate and Respondent Kyra King, Contract Officer for the County Department of Human Services, whereby Respondent will admit to allegations contained in the complaint for her failure to file an Outside Employment Statement; a Letter of Instruction will be issued; and all fines will be waived against the Respondent.

07-15: The Commission on Ethics dismissed a complaint filed against Mark Lewis and Amy Condon, two members of the South Dade Watershed Plan Advisory Committee, for lack of legal sufficiency. The complaint was dismissed due to the fact the Respondents are not covered by the voting conflicts provision of the county's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance.

Opinions

07-17: The Commission on Ethics opined that the Planning and Economics Group may serve as a consultant to the next bond engineer since the work will be a continuation of the work the firm is currently providing to the county's Department of Solid Waste. The Ethics Commission has consistently held that continuation of prior work does not constitute a conflict of interest.

07-24: The Commission on Ethics opined that an employee who works as an Executive Secretary in the county's Department of Consumer Services and serves as a director in a corporation is required to file an outside employment disclosure since she served as an employee of the corporation even if she did not receive a salary.

07-27: The Commission on Ethics opined that STEPS, a non-profit social service agency which receives some funding from the Public Health Trust, is permitted to contract with one of its directors for office space as long as the officer does not vote on the contract for office space.

07-28: The Commission on Ethics opined that Aviation Department employees are permitted to accept a down payment assistance offer in the amount of \$15,000 from the Merco Group as long as the employees report the down payment assistance as a gift. Furthermore, the Ethics Commission expressed some reservations about the abovementioned county gift provision that establishes no limitation as long as the gift is properly reported.

07-29: The Commission on Ethics opined that EBS Engineering may provide construction management services on the South Miami Heights Water Treatment Plant as long as the firm does not provide any construction management services related to its prior work on the project and does not provide any services to Camp Dresser and McKee, the engineer of record, during the bidding or construction phase of the project. If EBS is selected for this work, the firm must submit its work orders to the Ethics Commission to ensure no conflict of interest exists.

07-30: The Commission on Ethics issued a series of opinions regarding companies with existing work orders with the county's Department of Solid Waste and whether they can provide bond engineering services.

The Ethics Commission opined that that Brown and Caldwell, having served as bond engineer for the county's Department of Solid Waste since 1987 with six active work orders, may continue to serve as Bond Engineer due to the fact the firm is permitted to provide similar services under a successor agreement.

The Ethics Commission opined that ADA Engineering may serve as subconsultant only if the firm has completed engineering design services on any other project prior to commencement of the bond engineering agreement. Therefore, ADA may serve as a subconsultant to the bond engineering team if the firm has completed any design engineering services prior to the beginning of the bond engineering contract.

The Ethics Commission opined that BND Engineering may serve as a subconsultant to the next bond engineer for the Department of Solid Waste because the work would be a continuation of the firm's prior work as a subconsultant under the current bond engineering agreement.

07-32: The Commission on Ethics opined that a new contract between Hazen and Sawyer and the City of Hialeah and the county's Water and Sewer Department does not create overlapping conflicting duties for Hazen and Sawyer and the firm is allowed to submit a proposal for the new water treatment plant. However, Hazen and Sawyer must provide the Ethics Commission with the scope of services it is providing Miami-Dade County as general consulting engineers for the Water and Sewer Department before it proceeds to ensure there are no conflicts of interest.