
From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 12:56 PM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Cc: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: INQ 15-117 Miriam Ramos, Deputy City Attorney, Coral Gables (Citizens" Bill of Rights, Section 6)

Miriam Ramos, Deputy City Attorney for the City of Coral Gables, inquired whether an individual would have a right under Section 6 of the Miami-Dade County Citizens' Bill of Rights to be heard by the City Commission for the purpose of presenting allegations that that individual was being extorted by a public employee of the City. Section 6 of the Citizens' Bill of Rights provides that, "So far as the orderly conduct of public business permits, any interested person has the right to appear before the commission or any municipal council or any county or municipal agency, board or department for the presentation, adjustment or determination of an issue, request or controversy within the jurisdiction of the governmental entity involved..."

I indicated to Ms. Ramos that the latter section does not require that any person may present any issue without limitation to a municipal board. The issue must be within the jurisdiction of the board or agency. Investigation of or determination of a charge of extortion is a criminal justice matter that lies within the jurisdiction of an appropriate law enforcement agency, not the locally elected municipal commission or council. Accordingly, the individual need not be afforded the opportunity to make such a presentation.

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

