
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2015 3:57 PM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: FW: Marie Woodson, Acting Assistant Director CAHSD, Ethics Opinion (conflict of interest) INQ- 15-11

INQ 15-11 Woodson

From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2015 3:56 PM
To: Woodson, Marie (CAHSD)
Cc: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: Marie Woodson, Acting Assistant Director CAHSD, Ethics Opinion (conflict of interest) INQ- 15-11

Dear Ms. Woodson

You have inquired whether a prohibited conflict of interest would exist between your County employment as Acting Assistant Director with the Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Department (CAHSD) and your service as a volunteer Chair of the Board of the Haitian Women of Miami (FANM). FANM is seeking to rent space at one of the Neighborhood Service Centers (NSCs) administered by CAHSD.

As background, CAHSD administers various NSCs throughout Miami-Dade County to provide needed social services such as Head Start and programs for the elderly. CAHSD also rents spaces at the NSCs to non-profit and for-profit organizations that provide services to the community. In addition to your County employment, you serve as the Chair for FANM, a not for profit 501(c)(3) that provides services to underprivileged clients. Your service with FANM is on an uncompensated, volunteer basis. FANM is seeking to rent space from one of the NSCs administered by CAHSD.

You advise that in your County employment, you neither administer the rental of space at the NSCs, nor do you make final decisions regarding the rental of these spaces. Final decisions about rental spaces at the NSC are made by the department Director.

In general, we find no ethics conflicts regarding your County employment and FANM seeking to rent space at one of the NSCs. However, several sections of the County Code would govern the facts presented:

- The County Ethics Code at Sec. 2-11.1(m)(1) would prohibit you from meeting with any County personnel on behalf of FANM.
- The County Ethics Code at Sec. 2-11.1(h) would prohibit you employees from disclosing confidential information acquired by reason of their official position.

We also recommend that in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety, you should not be involved in any of the CAHSD decisions regarding leasing space to FANM. For the same reason, although not directly prohibited by the County Ethics Code, it would be advisable in your role as FANM Chair, to recuse yourself from voting or participating in FANM discussions and/or votes relating to the rental of space from CAHSD.

This opinion is limited to the facts as you presented to the Commission on Ethics regarding conflicts under the County Ethics Code only. Other conflicts, based on County department directives or under state law, may apply. Questions regarding possible conflicts based on Department directives should be referred the Department supervisor or the Mayor's Office. Questions regarding the state ethics laws should be addressed to the State of Florida Commission on Ethics.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact us.

Best regards,

Gilma (Mimi) Diaz-Greco
Staff Attorney



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From: Ethics (COE)
Sent: Monday, December 08, 2014 2:41 PM
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: FW: Seeking an opinion

Please handle.

From: Woodson, Marie (CAHSD)
Sent: Monday, December 08, 2014 2:31 PM
To: Ethics (COE)
Subject: Seeking an opinion

Good afternoon,

My name is Marie Woodson and I am an Acting Assistant Director with the Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Department(CAHSD). CAHSD administers various Neighborhood Service Centers throughout Miami-Dade County where the clients receive needed services. As well, when available CAHSD rents spaces to non-profit and for-profit organizations desirous to provide services to the community or collaborate for the benefits of the residents of Miami-Dade County.

As a public servant who believes in giving back to the community, I volunteer and chair the Board of the Haitian Women of Miami (FANM); a non-profit organization that provides services to underprivileged clients. FANM is seeking to rent space from CAHSD. Please provide me with an opinion as to whether the FANM's request constitutes a "Conflict of Interest".

Looking forward to hear from you.
Thank you

Marie Paule Woodson, Acting Assistant Director
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