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**From:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2015 2:52 PM  
**To:** Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)  
**Subject:** Gilberto Neves, CEO, Odebrecht; Board Member, Adrian Arsht Center (Voting Conflict)  
INQ 15-186

INQ 15-186 Pereira

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**From:** Centorino, Joseph (COE)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2015 2:29 PM  
**To:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Perez, Martha D. (COE)  
**Subject:** INQ 15-186 Gilberto Neves, CEO, Odebrecht; Board Member, Adrian Arsht Center (Voting Conflict)

Mr. Sergio Pereira, a County lobbyist inquired on behalf of Mr. Gilberto Neves, CEO of Odebrecht, a County contractor, and also a board member of the Adrienne Arsht Center, regarding whether a voting conflict would be created in connection with Mr. Neves' company bidding on an upcoming State Dept. of Transportation project that would have a direct impact on the Arsht Center, and for which the CEO of the Arsht Center, John Richard, would be serving as a member of Aesthetics Committee set up to screen the project applicants and make recommendations. The Aesthetics board was created as part of a settlement of litigation between the City of Miami and the State in connection with the project, which would have an impact on the intersection of I-395 and Biscayne Blvd. in the vicinity of the Arsht Center. As a member of the board of the Arsht Center, a private entity, Mr. Neves is in a position to evaluate and vote on hiring/firing decisions concerning the Arsht CEO, Mr. Richard. Mr. Richard would be in a position to make judgments and recommendations on the applicants for the State DOT project, for which Mr. Neves anticipated that his company, Odebrecht, would be applying.

After sorting out the various issues, it appeared that this matter was not under the jurisdiction of the COE since it did not involve an official, employee or board member of a County or municipal board. The Aesthetics board was set up by the State on a State transportation project, and is not a County or City of Miami board. The Arsht board is a private board, not a government board. Although Mr. Neves' company is a County contractor, the voting issue does not directly involve the County government or its agencies. I advised that the issue did create an appearance of a conflict due to Mr. Richard's position in voting on matters affecting the interests of one of the people to whom he is accountable at the Arsht Center, but would likely come under the jurisdiction of the State of Florida Ethics Commission since the board involved is a State board. I was advised by Mr. Pereira that following the discussion with this office, Mr. Neves resigned from the Arsht board.

*Joseph M. Centorino*

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