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**From:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2015 1:35 PM  
**To:** Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)  
**Subject:** FW: Michael Edwards, Fire Captain, MDR (Limitations on Contracting with the County)  
INQ 15-239

INQ 15-239 Edwards

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**From:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2015 1:32 PM  
**To:** Edwards, Michael (MDFR)  
**Cc:** Centorino, Joseph (COE); Perez, Martha D. (COE)  
**Subject:** Michael Edwards, Fire Captain, MDR (Limitations on Contracting with the County) INQ 15-239

Fire Captain Edwards:

You have inquired whether a conflict of interest would exist between your County employment as a Fire Captain and your acquiring an ownership interest in a family company that contracts with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

As background, you advise that your family has owned a local fresh fruit and vegetable wholesale company ("Company") in Miami since the 1940's and that your aging parents would like to transfer to you an ownership interest in the Company as part of their estate planning. This Company holds contracts with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

The County Ethics Code ("Ethics Code") does not extend to the School Board, therefore, no conflict of interest would exist under the Code if you acquire an ownership interest in a company that contracts with the School Board. Please note, however, that working in the Company constitutes outside employment which would require you to request permission to engage in outside employment on a yearly basis and file an Outside Employment Statement with the County Elections Department by noon on July 1st of each year.

If upon acquiring a an ownership interest in the Company, you were to seek to contract with **the County**, then the Ethics Code would prohibit you from administering or in any way overseeing contracts between the County and your privately owned company. The Ethics Code would also prohibit your privately owned company from entering into contracts with the Miami-Dade County Fire-Department. See Miami- Dade Code at Section 2-11.1(c)(2). Prior to entering into any contract with the County through your privately owned company, you would be required to seek an opinion from the Ethics Commission. See Miami- Dade Code at Section 2-11.1(c)(4).

Best regards,

Gilma (Mimi) Diaz-Greco  
Staff Attorney



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**From:** Edwards, Michael (MDFR)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2015 1:33 PM  
**To:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Subject:** Ethics Question

Hello, I was directed to contact you in reference to an ethics question. My name is Michael Edwards and I am a Fire Captain for MDFR. I am, and have always been assigned to the Operations Division. My family has owned a fresh fruit and vegetable wholesale company since the 1940's located here in Miami. Due to aging and the sudden illness with my parents they wish to give me a certain percentage of the company, along with my other siblings, in order to pass on the legacy of what they have created. They wish to do this immediately. My concern is that they currently hold, and have held for many years, contracts with the school board. These contracts are a part of the bigger business. I know that the School Board and my position with the Fire Department have absolutely no connection and that this should not be an issue. I value my position with the county greatly and would like to figure out what the next steps in the process are to get this cleared. I would like to carry out the wishes of my family in order to ensure that the livelihood of themselves and my siblings continues to be provided. Thank you for your help. I can be reached via cell at 786-299-4403. Fire Captain Michael Edwards