
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 2:46 PM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Miami-Dade County Commissioner Rebeca Sosa - (Voting Conflict) INQ 15-40
Attachments: Item No. 150543.pdf; Vivian Castro request.pdf; Vivian Castro response to questions.pdf

INQ 15-40 Sosa

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 1:32 PM
To: Castro, Vivian (DIST6)
Cc: Fernandez, Alejandro J. (DIST6); Aguirre, Betty (DIST6); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: INQ - Miami-Dade County Commissioner Rebeca Sosa - Voting Conflict

Ms. Castro:

You have inquired on behalf of Commissioner Rebeca Sosa regarding whether the Commissioner has a voting conflict under Section 2-11.1(d) of the County Code of Ethics in voting on or otherwise participating in Item No. 150543, a Resolution that would authorize the County to acquire certain lands in the western part of the County. The reason for the request is that Commissioner Sosa has a fulltime position with the Lindsey Hopkins Technical Education Center in the Miami-Dade County Public School District and the School District would be compensated pursuant to the Resolution for its current leasehold interest in a portion of the land that the County intends to acquire. The land in question is not situated within Commissioner Sosa's district and the School Board's leasehold parcel is currently unoccupied and was contemplated to be used for a school facility at some unspecified future time.

Because the School Board is a governmental agency rather than a private entity, we have in the past not considered one's position with the School Board to automatically disqualify a School Board employee on a County board from voting on or participating in an item that might affect the School Board. We look at the particulars of the transaction to determine whether the individual stands to profit or be enhanced in some way by the transaction to determine whether a conflict exists. In this situation, where the issue in question would have no perceptible effect on Commissioner Sosa's position at Lindsay Hopkins, nor would it in any way enhance or profit her in any way distinguishable from that of the general public, I do not find that there is any voting conflict of interest under Section 2-11.1(d). Accordingly, Commissioner Sosa may vote or otherwise participate on this item when it comes before the County Commission.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Centorino
Executive Director and General Counsel
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

From: Castro, Vivian (DIST6)
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2015 2:52 PM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Cc: Fernandez, Alejandro J. (DIST6); Aguirre, Betty (DIST6)
Subject: Request for Conflict of Interest Opinion/Commissioner Sosa

Good afternoon, Mr. Centorino:

Commissioner Sosa requested that I contact you regarding the attached item involving the Miami-Dade County School Board. She would like to ascertain whether or not she has a voting conflict.

150543: RESOLUTION APPROVING SALE AND PURCHASE CONTRACT WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA FOR PURCHASE OF APPROXIMATELY 82 ACRES OF VACANT LAND ADJACENT TO I-75 IN NORTHWEST MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, WAIVING PROVISIONS OF SECTION 2-10.4.2 OF THE COUNTY CODE REQUIRING TWO APPRAISALS, AND AUTHORIZING MAYOR OR DESIGNEE TO FINALIZE PURCHASE PRICE AT AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED APPRAISED VALUE OF \$12,300,000.00 AND TO EXECUTE SUCH CONTRACT; UPON SATISFACTION OF CERTAIN CONDITIONS, APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD FOR PAYMENT OF \$7,250,000.00 FOR TERMINATION OF ITS LEASEHOLD INTEREST ON A PORTION OF THE PROPERTY....

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Most sincerely,

Vivian Castro
Legislative Director
Office of Commissioner Rebeca Sosa

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 1:32 PM
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: Sosa INQ backup

From: Castro, Vivian (DIST6)
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 12:58 PM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: RE: Request for Conflict of Interest Opinion/Commissioner Sosa

Hello Mr. Centorino,

What is the nature of the School Board's leasehold interest in the property, i.e., what the School Board is currently using it for. **The property is currently vacant land. The School Board has been leasing it in order to potentially construct a public school on that land in the future.**

Does it have anything at all to do with Commissioner Sosa's position or with Lindsey Hopkins? **To my knowledge, it does not.**

Is it situated within Commissioner Sosa's district? **No, it is situated in District 12.**

Thank you very much,

Vivian Castro
Legislative Director
Office of Commissioner Rebeca Sosa
District 6 Office: 305-267-6377 1000 SW 57th Avenue, Suite 201, Miami, FL 33144
Downtown Office: 305-375-5696 111 NW 1st Street, Suite 220, Miami, FL 33128
[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Website](#) | [Newsletter Sign-up](#)

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 12:22 PM
To: Castro, Vivian (DIST6)
Subject: RE: Request for Conflict of Interest Opinion/Commissioner Sosa

Vivian,
I will get back to you later today on this. If you can, please provide answers to the following:

What is the nature of the School Board's leasehold interest in the property, i.e., what the School Board is currently using it for.

Does it have anything at all to do with Commissioner Sosa's position or with Lindsey Hopkins?

Is it situated within Commissioner Sosa's district?

Thanks for your help.

Joe

From: Castro, Vivian (DIST6)
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 11:49 AM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: FW: Request for Conflict of Interest Opinion/Commissioner Sosa

Good morning Mr. Centorino:

Kindly accept my apologies, but I forgot to mention in my previous email requesting a conflict of interest opinion, that this item is coming before the Board tomorrow at the 3-17-15 BCC Meeting.

Please excuse any inconvenience,

Vivian Castro
Legislative Director
Office of Commissioner Rebeca Sosa
District 6 Office: 305-267-6377 1000 SW 57th Avenue, Suite 201, Miami, FL 33144
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Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Most sincerely,

Vivian Castro
Legislative Director
Office of Commissioner Rebeca Sosa

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Subject: Sosa INQ backup
Attachments: 150543.pdf

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Most sincerely,

Vivian Castro
Legislative Director
Office of Commissioner Rebeca Sosa