
INQ 16-138 Pizzi

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 12:22 PM
To: Michael Pizzi <pizzim@miamilakes-fl.gov>
Cc: Turay, Radia (COE) <Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <perezmd@miamidade.gov>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <GDIAZGR@miamidade.gov>
Subject: INQ 16-138 Michael Pizzi, Mayor, Town of Miami Lakes (Sunshine Law)

Mayor Pizzi:

You have inquired concerning whether it would be permissible under the Sunshine Law, Section 286.011, Florida Statutes, to re-schedule a special meeting within several hours of the advertised time of the meeting, and to provide only several hours notice of the re-scheduled meeting. The circumstances of the special meeting involve an authorization for the Town Attorney to seek a Temporary Restraining Order against an individual who is believed to be sending harassing emails to the City Manager and the City Manager's family.

The Sunshine Law requires reasonable notice of any public meeting. The statute does not define the term "reasonable," but it is generally accepted that 72 hours notice is preferable but a minimum of 48 hours is reasonable notice of a special public meeting, absent an emergency. I understand that the Miami Lakes City Charter provides for 48 hours notice of a special meeting.

While there is obviously a basis to expedite such a meeting, it is my understanding that the situation to be addressed has been going on for some time. It is not clear to me that it represents the type of emergency that is contemplated for meetings to occur with less than what is usually considered reasonable notice.

It is my recommendation that the meeting be rescheduled with a minimum of 48 hours advance notice.

Joseph M. Centorino

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