
INQ 16-180 Lopes

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2016 11:28 AM
To: Turay, Radia (COE) <Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <perezmd@miamidade.gov>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <GDIAZGR@miamidade.gov>
Cc: Sanchez, Gerald (CAO) <gks@miamidade.gov>; Kirtley, Eddie (CAO) <kirtley@miamidade.gov>
Subject: INQ 16-180 Jorge Luis Lopez, Esq. (Lobbying)

Jorge Luis Lopez, Esq., a registered lobbyist in the County who volunteers as a member of the Board of the Parks Foundation, inquired concerning the necessity of Parks Foundation members to register as lobbyists in appearing before the County Commission to speak in favor of more funding for Miami-Dade County Parks. The Parks Foundation is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to improving parks in the County. It is not a County board or contractor and its members are unpaid. Its members expect to appear before the County Commission to speak in favor of more County funding for the parks during the upcoming budget process. I explained to Mr. Luis Lopez that there would be no necessity to register to lobby, pursuant to Section 2-11.1(s)(3)(b) of the Ethics Code, inasmuch as the members were not seeking to obtain any special benefit for their organization or for themselves, but were essentially exercising their rights as citizens to appear as individuals to express support of funding for public parks. The fact that they are affiliated with an organization that seeks to promote parks funding would not make them lobbyists under the Code.

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