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INQ 16-189 Fancher

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**From:** Centorino, Joseph (COE)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 25, 2016 11:11 AM  
**To:** Fancher, Evan (DIST7) <EVANF@miamidade.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 16-189 Evan Fancher, Senior Advisor, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Xavier Suarez (DIST 7) (Sunshine Law)

Mr. Fancher:

You have inquired concerning whether there is any Sunshine Law issue raised in connection with your involvement in an event organized by the Miami-Dade Young Democrats. The organization, of which you are an officer, is holding a monthly meeting with Mayor Carlos Gimenez as the guest speaker. Your concern revolves around the fact that Aaron McKinney, Legislative Aide for Commissioner Barbara Jordan, who is also an officer of the organization, will be present at the event where it is anticipated that Mayor Gimenez will speak about county policies that are likely to be voted upon by your respective bosses at future Commission meetings.

Since neither you nor Mr. McKinney is a member of a public board (the Young Democrats would not be considered a public board), there is no prohibition regarding your and his presence and involvement in such an event. I would only caution you that both of you should avoid communicating with the County Commissioners who employ you to provide information obtained through the meeting reflecting on how any other Commissioner may feel about any such issue. There is no prohibition regarding your speaking with Commissioner Suarez in connection with anything said by Mayor Gimenez, since Mayor Gimenez is not a member of the BCC. However, the passing of information from one Commissioner to another through the medium of two aides acting as liaisons for those Commissioners could provide the basis of a Sunshine Law violation. Accordingly, you should feel free to attend and participate in the event provided that you do not act as the conduit of information from one Commissioner to another regarding an issue that will foreseeably come before the County Commission.

Sincerely,

Joe Centorino

*Joseph M. Centorino*  
Executive Director and General Counsel  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
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Miami, FL 33130  
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**From:** Fancher, Evan (DIST7)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 25, 2016 10:08 AM  
**To:** Centorino, Joseph (COE) <[CENTORI@miamidade.gov](mailto:CENTORI@miamidade.gov)>  
**Subject:** Opinion Request

Mr. Centorino,

Thank you for taking my call earlier. As discussed here is the situation that I have the sunshine question on:

Aaron McKinney (Commissioner Jordan's Legislative Aide) and I (Senior Advisor to Commissioner Suarez) are both officers in the Miami Dade Young Democrats. While the subject matter for our monthly meetings generally revolve around state/federal topics, this meeting our guest speaker is the Mayor Giminez. By Mayor Giminez being our speaker, my fear is that we are running into a sunshine issue because the subject matter will revolve around county policy and policies that are likely to be voted on by the Board of County Commissioners and therefore may be a violation of the sunshine law.

Please advise.

Best,  
**Evan Fancher**  
Commissioner Xavier L. Suarez, District 7  
Office: (305) 375-5680  
Cell: (305) 979-4568