

## Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)

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**From:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:15 PM  
**To:** Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)  
**Subject:** Akeem Brutus, Sr. Legislative Analyst/Community Liaison, Office of Hon. Audrey Edmonson (DIST 3) (Ethics Training, Section 2-11.1(bb)) INQ 16-259

INQ 16-259 Brutus

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**From:** Centorino, Joseph (COE)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 28, 2016 2:20 PM  
**To:** Brutus, Akeem (DIST3) <[Akeem.Brutus@miamidade.gov](mailto:Akeem.Brutus@miamidade.gov)>  
**Cc:** Turay, Radia (COE) <[Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov](mailto:Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov)>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <[perezmd@miamidade.gov](mailto:perezmd@miamidade.gov)>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <[Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov](mailto:Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov)>; Sanchez, Gerald (CAO) <[Gerald.Sanchez@miamidade.gov](mailto:Gerald.Sanchez@miamidade.gov)>; Kirtley, Eddie (CAO) <[Eddie.Kirtley@miamidade.gov](mailto:Eddie.Kirtley@miamidade.gov)>  
**Subject:** INQ 16-259 Akeem Brutus, Sr. Legislative Analyst/Community Liaison, Office of Hon. Audrey Edmonson (DIST 3) (Ethics Training, Section 2-11.1(bb))

Mr. Brutus:

You have inquired on behalf of Commissioner Audrey Edmonson regarding whether the ethics training course offered by the Florida Association of Counties (FAC), which satisfies the State of Florida Ethics requirement for four hours of annual ethics training for Constitutional Officers, would suffice to satisfy the requirement under Section 2-11.1(bb) of the County Ethics Code, which requires elected officials to receive ethics training from the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust within 90 days of being sworn into office. You also inquire on your own behalf concerning whether the FAC course would satisfy the County requirement, also under Section 2-11.1(bb) for you as a County employee.

The County ordinance, Section 2-11.1(bb), requires that the ethics course for elected officials in the County, as well as for County employees, be given by the Ethics Commission. There are no provisions for it to be provided by any other agency. Additionally, the primary component of our ethics course is the County Ethics Code, whereas the FAC Course covers only the State Code. Therefore, the FAC course does not satisfy the County requirement for either elected officials or County employees. However, the County Ethics Commission course, which is about two hours long, may be applied to the four-hour requirement of the State, which is flexible in only requiring that a qualified presenter provide the training. There are segments of the State training which can also be obtained online on the website for the Florida Commission on Ethics.

The Ethics Commission has scheduled two hour ethics training sessions for elected officials from around the County on January 18 (Miami Lakes), February 1 (Cutler Bay), and February 7 (Bal Harbour). Commissioner Edmonson is welcome to attend any of these sessions. Alternatively, the Ethics Commission would be willing to hold a special training for all of the members of the County Commission for either two hours or four hours (something we have done in the past) upon the request of 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  
Tel: (305) 579-2594  
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**From:** Brutus, Akeem (DIST3)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 23, 2016 4:18 PM  
**To:** Centorino, Joseph (COE) <[Joseph.Centorino@miamidade.gov](mailto:Joseph.Centorino@miamidade.gov)>  
**Cc:** Russell, Marie E. (DIST3) <[Marie.Russell@miamidade.gov](mailto:Marie.Russell@miamidade.gov)>  
**Subject:** Ethics Training Question

Hey Joe,

The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) offers an ethics training course to satisfy the State ethics requirement that constitutional officers take four hours of ethics programming each calendar year. If Commissioner Edmonson takes one of the FAC courses would it satisfy the County requirement for ethics training within 90 days of being sworn in, established by the following ordinance  
<http://www.miamidade.gov/govaction/matter.asp?matter=131085&file=true&yearFolder=Y2013> ?

Also, if I were to take the FAC course, would it satisfy the requirement that County employees take a refresher course every two years?

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Best Regards,

*Akeem Brutus*

Senior Legislative Analyst/ Community Liaison  
**Office of the Honorable Audrey M. Edmonson**  
**Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners - District 3**  
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"A good leader inspires people to have confidence in the leader, a great leader inspires people to have confidence in themselves."  
- Author Unknown