

## **Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)**

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**From:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 07, 2016 11:23 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)  
**Subject:** Manny Cid, Mayor, Town of Miami Lakes (Voting Conflict) INQ 16-271

INQ 16-271 Gastesi

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**From:** Centorino, Joseph (COE)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 07, 2016 11:21 AM  
**To:** 'rgatesi@gastesi.com' <rgatesi@gastesi.com>  
**Cc:** Turay, Radia (COE) <Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <perezmd@miamidade.gov>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>  
**Subject:** INQ 16-271 Manny Cid, Mayor, Town of Miami Lakes (Voting Conflict)

Mr. Gastesi:

You have inquired in your capacity as Town Attorney for the Town of Miami Lakes regarding whether the newly-elected Mayor of Miami Lakes, Manny Cid, would have a voting conflict in voting on the lobbying contract that is to come before the Council shortly, due to his past association with the lobbying firm's consultant, former State Representative Eddy Gonzalez.. The Mayor in Miami Lakes is a voting member of the Town Council, which will be voting on the contract. The firm recommended for the contract is known to employ former Mr. Gonzalez as a paid consultant. Mr. Gonzalez will be lobbying in Tallahassee on behalf of the Town of Miami Lakes in connection with the work done by the lobbying firm. However, you have indicated that Mr. Gonzalez has no ownership interest in the firm in question, but is only employed as a consultant. Mayor Cid himself has no current business, financial or employment relationship with either Mr. Gonzalez or the lobbying firm that is the subject of this inquiry. However, you have informed that Mayor Cid was once employed by Mr. Gonzalez as a legislative aide while Mr. Gonzalez was a state representative. However, his employment relationship with Mr. Gonzalez ended when Mr. Gonzalez left the state legislature in 2012.

Under the foregoing circumstances, it does not appear that Mayor Cid has a relationship with an entity that would automatically prohibit him from voting on this matter. Although it appears that Mr. Gonzalez could at least indirectly benefit from the vote in question, Mayor Cid's past employment with Mr. Gonzalez does not qualify as a current employer/employee relationship with Mr. Gonzalez which could otherwise disqualify him. Additionally, since Mayor Cid has no current business or financial relationship with either Mr. Gonzalez or the lobbying firm, I see no reasonable possibility that Mayor Cid would or might profit or be enhanced personally by voting on this matter.

Accordingly, it is my opinion that Mayor Cid may participate and vote on the lobbying contract when it comes before the Miami Lakes Town Council.

Sincerely,  
Joe Centorino

*Joseph M. Centorino*  
Executive Director and General Counsel  
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