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INQ 16-49 Thompson

**From:** amendmentone@comcast.net [mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 6:29 PM

**To:** cleen@coralgables.com; Centorino, Joseph (COE) <CENTORI@miamidade.gov>

**Cc:** Perez, Martha D. (COE) <perezmd@miamidade.gov>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <GDIAZGR@miamidade.gov>;

Murawski, Michael P. (COE) <MURAWSK@miamidade.gov>; mramos@coralgables.com

**Subject:** Re: INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

By the way Mr Leen, the two Florids statutes are NOT restricted only to private trespass warnings. You are confused. Re-read the statutes.

Mr. Centorino,

Thank you for your thoughtful opinion, with which I am in full agreement. I just want to be clear for purposes of the public record that the City has always taken the position that a member of the public may be placed on the agenda to discuss matters within the City Commission's jurisdiction, consistent with the Citizens Bill of Rights. In fact, section 2-69(e)(1) of the City Code provides a similar right to access the agenda on a matter within the City Commission's jurisdiction. Also, I would simply note that the City informed Mr. Thompson on Tuesday, prior to issuance of this opinion, that he would be placed on the agenda to propose adoption of an ordinance by the City similar to the St. Petersburg ordinance. Today, Mr. Thompson and the City agreed that this would occur at the City Commission meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

I would respectfully request that you include this response in your file with this opinion.

Best regards,

**Craig E. Leen, City Attorney**

*Board Certified by the Florida Bar in*

*City, County and Local Government Law*

City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way

Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Phone: (305) 460-5218

Fax: (305) 460-5264

Email: [cleen@coralgables.com](mailto:cleen@coralgables.com)



**From:** Centorino, Joseph (COE) [<mailto:CENTORI@miamidade.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 3:29 PM  
**To:** 'amendmentone@comcast.net'  
**Cc:** Leen, Craig; Perez, Martha D. (COE); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Murawski, Michael P. (COE)  
**Subject:** INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

Mr. Thompson:

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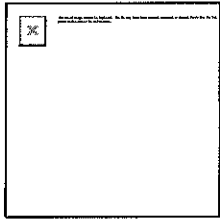
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The Coral Gables Commission should permit you to address it concerning your recommendation that it adopt an ordinance which it has the authority to adopt.

Sincerely,

***Joseph M. Centorino***

Executive Director and General Counsel  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
19 W. Flagler Street, Suite 820  
Miami, FL 33130  
Tel: (305) 579-2594  
Fax: (305) 579-0273  
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**From:** [amendmentone@comcast.net](mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net) [<mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 2:28 PM  
**To:** Craig Leen <[cleen@coralgables.com](mailto:cleen@coralgables.com)>; Manuel Guarch <[mguarch@reyeslawfirmmpa.com](mailto:mguarch@reyeslawfirmmpa.com)>; Israel Reyes <[ireyes@reyeslawfirmmpa.com](mailto:ireyes@reyeslawfirmmpa.com)>; Ethics (COE) <[ethics@miamidade.gov](mailto:ethics@miamidade.gov)>  
**Cc:** Jim Cason <[jimcason@coralgables.com](mailto:jimcason@coralgables.com)>; Frank Quesada <[frank@coralgables.com](mailto:frank@coralgables.com)>; Patricia Keon <[PKeon@coralgables.com](mailto:PKeon@coralgables.com)>; Vince Lago <[VLago@coralgables.com](mailto:VLago@coralgables.com)>; Jeannett Slesnick <[slesnick@coralgables.com](mailto:slesnick@coralgables.com)>; Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark <[cswanson@coralgables.com](mailto:cswanson@coralgables.com)>; Edward Hudak <[ehudak@coralgables.com](mailto:ehudak@coralgables.com)>; Miriam Ramos <[mramos@coralgables.com](mailto:mramos@coralgables.com)>  
**Subject:** For Joe Centorino: Illegal Prohibition of Jack Thompson from Addressing Gables City Commission

John B. Thompson, J.D., M.A.  
5721 Riviera Drive  
Coral Gables, Florida 33146  
305-666-4366  
[amendmentone@comcast.net](mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net)

February 16, 2016

Joseph M. Centorino  
Executive Director and General Counsel  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
19W. Flagler Street, Suite 820  
Miami, Florida Via email to [ethics@miamidade.gov](mailto:ethics@miamidade.gov) and Fax to 305-579-0273

Re: Ongoing Violation of Section 6 of Miami-Dade Citizens' Bill of Rights by  
Coral Gables City Commission

Dear Mr. Centorino:

I hope this finds you well. I am writing about the above and responding to your email of June 11, 2015, to Coral Gables' request, in Inquiry 15-117, as to whether or not I have and have had a right to appear before the Gables City Commission on a particular issue.  
This response is long overdue.

First off, thank you for taking the time to answer the City's inquiry. However, one gets the response one wants when one seeks that response in the shadows, not involving the other side in the inquiry.

Gables City Attorney Craig Leen keeps referring to your letter of June 11, 2015, as fully dispositive and binding upon all of us on February 16, 2016, when in fact the situation has changed dramatically

since then. The City's use of your June 2015 letter is analogous to using a simple magnetic compass as a navigational device on the orbiting Space Station.

Since June, Granada Presbyterian Church, located at 950 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida, has issued a criminal trespass warning that not only violates the Constitution of our denomination (so says the chair of our denomination's highest ecclesiastical court) but that also violates, facially, Florida's trespass warning statutes, 810.08 and 810.09. It also violates an Eleventh Circuit Court ruling as to such trespass warnings.

The City of Coral Gables' Police Department is now threatening me with arrest if I go and sit quietly in a pew in that church. This gives rise to a 42 USC 1983 claim, as right now this municipality is illegally using government force for a private purpose in violation of our State Constitution.

The City of St. Petersburg, Florida, has a municipal ordinance providing a due process-mandated hearing to anyone who is targeted by such a trespass warning, and I believe the Commission should hear from a citizen that it would do well to adopt a similar city ordinance to be in compliance with the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that mandates a hearing.

Further, as you know, Florida has a Religious Freedom Restoration Act that the courts have held constitutional when utilized by a state. In this regard, the City of Coral Gables is in clear violation of Florida's RFRA, Florida Statutes, Chapter 761, by threatening me with its using its cops to enter onto private property to which the public has free access for the purpose of infringing upon my right to worship. If such Gestapo tactics do not violate Florida's RFRA, then nothing could violate it. The Gables cannot possibly show a "compelling state interest" in doing such a thuggish thing.

Now, if you will re-read your letter of June 11, you will see that Mr. Ramos of the City of Coral Gables only asked you about whether or not a Granada Elder who is also the Assistant Police Chief in the Gables should be wearing both hats in this extortionate setting.

Here and now, eight months later, we are all WAY beyond that narrow inquiry. I should like to note, however, that I was absolutely right to express my concern, because that Assistant Police Chief, made aware of the impropriety of using his Elder office to enhance the extortionate use of the Police Department for a private purpose, had to pledge to both his employer and his Session that he was taking himself out of this dual extortion loop. I like being right, but I am now asking for your opinion on something else I am right about:

Whether I have a Right, under our County's Bill of Rights, to address the Gables Commission about:

1. Its ongoing violation of the State's criminal trespass warning statutes;
2. Its need for a municipal ordinance like St. Petersburg's that the Eleventh Circuit finds it should have; and
3. Coral Gables' shocking, severe, and consequential thumbing of its nose at Florida's Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The above three concerns go way beyond the misconduct, since self-admitted, of a Gables Police official using his law enforcement muscle to vitiate his ecclesiastical function.

Please advise as soon as is convenient as to whether or not I might interrupt a City Commission meetings self-congratulatory moments with a matter of actual public import.

Regards, Jack Thompson

Please Note: Florida has a very broad Public Records Law. Most written communications to or from State and Local Officials regarding State or Local business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may therefore be subject to public disclosure.

## **Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)**

---

**From:** amendmentone@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 4:45 PM  
**To:** Craig Leen  
**Cc:** Centorino, Joseph (COE); Perez, Martha D. (COE); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Murawski, Michael P. (COE); Miriam Ramos  
**Subject:** Re: INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

I got that one, Mr. Leen. I am going to address the need to have an ordinance in the Gables that address not just public property but private property to which the public has access. You may not want me to talk about that, but that is what I am going to talk about. I know exactly what you sent me. Put me on the first of the two agendas, and confirm that you are going to let me, as if you were not the speech and thought police, talk about the ordinance as I recommend it, not as you, wanting to control the citizenry, want it.

---

**From:** "Craig Leen" <cleen@coralgables.com>  
**To:** "amendmentone@comcast.net" <amendmentone@comcast.net>, "Joseph Centorino (COE)" <CENTORI@miamidade.gov>  
**Cc:** "Martha D. Perez (COE)" <perezmd@miamidade.gov>, "Gilma M. Diaz-Greco (COE)" <GDIAGR@miamidade.gov>, "Michael P. Murawski (COE)" <MURAWSK@miamidade.gov>, "Miriam Ramos" <mramos@coralgables.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 4:38:28 PM  
**Subject:** RE: INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

Attached is the email I sent you earlier this week.

Best regards,  
Craig

**Craig E. Leen, City Attorney**  
*Board Certified by the Florida Bar in  
City, County and Local Government Law*  
City of Coral Gables  
405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, Florida 33134  
Phone: (305) 460-5218  
Fax: (305) 460-5264  
Email: [cleen@coralgables.com](mailto:cleen@coralgables.com)



*Celebrating 90 years of a dream realized.*

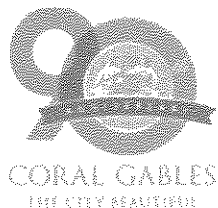
---

**From:** Leen, Craig  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 4:37 PM  
**To:** 'amendmentone@comcast.net'; Joseph Centorino (COE)  
**Cc:** Martha D. Perez (COE); Gilma M. Diaz-Greco (COE); Michael P. Murawski (COE); Ramos, Miriam  
**Subject:** RE: INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

Mr. Thompson,

I already informed you earlier this week by email that the City would place you on the agenda to discuss your proposal that the City adopt the St. Petersburg ordinance, which allows for appeals of trespass warnings issued on city property. The potential dates for your personal appearance are March 15 or March 29. Please advise as to which date you would prefer.

**Craig E. Leen, City Attorney**  
*Board Certified by the Florida Bar in*  
*City, County and Local Government Law*  
City of Coral Gables  
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**Subject:** Re: INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

Mr. Centorino, thank you very much. Mr. Leen, what meeting agenda am I to be on? Please advise asap. Jack Thompson

---

**From:** "Joseph Centorino (COE)" <CENTORI@miamidade.gov>  
**To:** "amendmentone@comcast.net" <amendmentone@comcast.net>

**Cc:** "Craig 'Leen" <cleen@coralgables.com>, "Martha D. Perez (COE)" <perezmd@miamidade.gov>, "Gilma M. Diaz-Greco (COE)" <GDIAZGR@miamidade.gov>, "Michael P. Murawski (COE)" <MURAWSK@miamidade.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 3:29:00 PM  
**Subject:** INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

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**From:** [amendmentone@comcast.net](mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net) [mailto:[amendmentone@comcast.net](mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 2:28 PM

**To:** Craig Leen <[cleen@coralgables.com](mailto:cleen@coralgables.com)>; Manuel Guarch <[mguarch@reyeslawfirmmpa.com](mailto:mguarch@reyeslawfirmmpa.com)>; Israel Reyes <[ireyes@reyeslawfirmmpa.com](mailto:ireyes@reyeslawfirmmpa.com)>; Ethics (COE) <[ethics@miamidade.gov](mailto:ethics@miamidade.gov)>

**Cc:** Jim Cason <[jimcason@coralgables.com](mailto:jimcason@coralgables.com)>; Frank Quesada <[frank@coralgables.com](mailto:frank@coralgables.com)>; Patricia Keon <[PKeon@coralgables.com](mailto:PKeon@coralgables.com)>; Vince Lago <[VLago@coralgables.com](mailto:VLago@coralgables.com)>; Jeannett Slesnick <[slesnick@coralgables.com](mailto:slesnick@coralgables.com)>; Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark <[cswanson@coralgables.com](mailto:cswanson@coralgables.com)>; Edward Hudak <[ehudak@coralgables.com](mailto:ehudak@coralgables.com)>; Miriam Ramos <[mramos@coralgables.com](mailto:mramos@coralgables.com)>

**Subject:** For Joe Centorino: Illegal Prohibition of Jack Thompson from Addressing Gables City Commission

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5721 Riviera Drive  
Coral Gables, Florida 33146  
305-666-4366  
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February 16, 2016

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**Subject:** RE: INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

The City has fully complied. Mr. Centorino opined that "[t]he Coral Gables Commission should permit you to address it concerning your recommendation that it adopt an ordinance which it has the authority to adopt." The City has placed Mr. Thompson on the agenda for March 15<sup>th</sup> to do exactly that. I believe at this point that Mr. Thompson should present to the City Commission. If he believes he has been treated unfairly following his presentation, he could raise it with the City Attorney's Office (chief ethics officer for the City), with Mr. Centorino, or through a civil action at that time.

**Craig E. Leen, City Attorney**

*Board Certified by the Florida Bar in  
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CORAL GABLES  
THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

*Celebrating 90 years of a dream realized.*

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**Cc:** Leen, Craig; perezmd@miamidade.gov; GDIAZGR@miamidade.gov; MURAWSK@miamidade.gov  
**Subject:** Re:INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

Mr. Centurion, Mr Leen refuses to abide by your very clear opinion. What do we do about that?  
Mr. Thompson:

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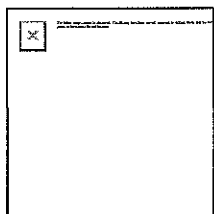
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**From:** [amendmentone@comcast.net](mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net) [mailto:[amendmentone@comcast.net](mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 2:28 PM

**To:** Craig Leen <[cleen@coralgables.com](mailto:cleen@coralgables.com)>; Manuel Guarch <[mguarch@reyeslawfirmmpa.com](mailto:mguarch@reyeslawfirmmpa.com)>; Israel Reyes <[ireyes@reyeslawfirmmpa.com](mailto:ireyes@reyeslawfirmmpa.com)>; Ethics (COE) <[ethics@miamidade.gov](mailto:ethics@miamidade.gov)>

**Cc:** Jim Cason <[jjmcason@coralgables.com](mailto:jjmcason@coralgables.com)>; Frank Quesada <[frank@coralgables.com](mailto:frank@coralgables.com)>; Patricia Keon <[PKeon@coralgables.com](mailto:PKeon@coralgables.com)>; Vince Lago <[VLago@coralgables.com](mailto:VLago@coralgables.com)>; Jeannett Slesnick <[slesnick@coralgables.com](mailto:slesnick@coralgables.com)>; Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark <[cswanson@coralgables.com](mailto:cswanson@coralgables.com)>; Edward Hudak <[ehudak@coralgables.com](mailto:ehudak@coralgables.com)>; Miriam Ramos <[mramos@coralgables.com](mailto:mramos@coralgables.com)>

**Subject:** For Joe Centorino: Illegal Prohibition of Jack Thompson from Addressing Gables City Commission

John B. Thompson, J.D., M.A.  
5721 Riviera Drive  
Coral Gables, Florida 33146  
305-666-4366  
[amendmentone@comcast.net](mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net)

February 16, 2016

Joseph M. Centorino  
Executive Director and General Counsel  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
19W. Flagler Street, Suite 820  
Miami, Florida Via email to [ethics@miamidade.gov](mailto:ethics@miamidade.gov) and Fax to 305-579-0273

Re: Ongoing Violation of Section 6 of Miami-Dade Citizens' Bill of Rights by  
Coral Gables City Commission

Dear Mr. Centorino:

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hear from a citizen that it would do well to adopt a similar city ordinance to be in compliance with the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that mandates a hearing.

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Please advise as soon as is convenient as to whether or not I might interrupt a City Commission meetings self-congratulatory moments with a matter of actual public import.

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**Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)**

---

**From:** Leen, Craig <cleen@coralgables.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 5:08 PM  
**To:** 'amendmentone@comcast.net'; Foeman, Walter  
**Cc:** Centorino, Joseph (COE); Perez, Martha D. (COE); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Murawski, Michael P. (COE); Ramos, Miriam  
**Subject:** RE: INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

Mr. Thompson,

This confirms that you are being placed on the March 15<sup>th</sup> agenda under the following heading:

Presentation by John B. Thompson regarding proposal for City to adopt an ordinance similar to the attached ordinance from St. Petersburg.

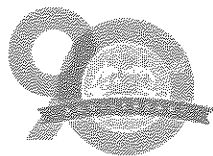
I will include a copy of the St. Petersburg ordinance along with section 42-25 of the City Code (the City's present Code provisions regarding trespass warnings/expulsion orders).

I am copying the City Clerk.

Best regards,

**Craig E. Leen, City Attorney**

*Board Certified by the Florida Bar in  
City, County and Local Government Law*  
City of Coral Gables  
405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, Florida 33134  
Phone: (305) 460-5218  
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Email: [cleen@coralgables.com](mailto:cleen@coralgables.com)



**CORAL GABLES**  
THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

*Celebrating 90 years of a dream realized.*

---

**From:** amendmentone@comcast.net [mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 4:45 PM  
**To:** Leen, Craig  
**Cc:** Joseph Centorino (COE); Martha D. Perez (COE); Gilma M. Diaz-Greco (COE); Michael P. Murawski (COE); Ramos,



Miriam

**Subject:** Re: INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

I got that one, Mr. Leen. I am going to address the need to have an ordinance in the Gables that address not just public property but private property to which the public has access. You may not want me to talk about that, but that is what I am going to talk about. I know exactly what you sent me. Put me on the first of the two agendas, and confirm that you are going to let me, as if you were not the speech and thought police, talk about the ordinance as I recommend it, not as you, wanting to control the citizenry, want it.

---

**From:** "Craig Leen" <cleen@coralgables.com>

**To:** "amendmentone@comcast.net" <amendmentone@comcast.net>, "Joseph Centorino (COE)" <CENTORI@miamidade.gov>

**Cc:** "Martha D. Perez (COE)" <perezmd@miamidade.gov>, "Gilma M. Diaz-Greco (COE)" <GDIAZGR@miamidade.gov>, "Michael P. Murawski (COE)" <MURAWSK@miamidade.gov>, "Miriam Ramos" <mramos@coralgables.com>

**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 4:38:28 PM

**Subject:** RE: INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

Attached is the email I sent you earlier this week.

Best regards,  
Craig

**Craig E. Leen, City Attorney**

*Board Certified by the Florida Bar in  
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City of Coral Gables  
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Email: [cleen@coralgables.com](mailto:cleen@coralgables.com)



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**Cc:** Martha D. Perez (COE); Gilma M. Diaz-Greco (COE); Michael P. Murawski (COE); Ramos, Miriam

**Subject:** RE: INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

Mr. Thompson,

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**Craig E. Leen, City Attorney**

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Mr. Centorino, thank you very much. Mr. Leen, what meeting agenda am I to be on? Please advise asap. Jack Thompson

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**To:** "amendmentone@comcast.net" <[amendmentone@comcast.net](mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net)>  
**Cc:** "Craig' 'Leen" <[cleen@coralgables.com](mailto:cleen@coralgables.com)>, "Martha D. Perez (COE)" <[perezmd@miamidade.gov](mailto:perezmd@miamidade.gov)>, "Gilma M. Diaz-Greco (COE)" <[GDIAZGR@miamidade.gov](mailto:GDIAZGR@miamidade.gov)>, "Michael P. Murawski (COE)" <[MURAWSK@miamidade.gov](mailto:MURAWSK@miamidade.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 3:29:00 PM  
**Subject:** INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

Mr. Thompson:

You have inquired regarding your right to be heard under Section 5 of the Miami-Dade County Citizens' Bill of Rights in connection with issues you wish to present to the Coral Gables City Commission. The issues arise out of a pending controversy involving the Granada Presbyterian Church's issuance of a criminal trespass order against you which you believe would be enforced by the Coral Gables Police Department. You have indicated an intent to address the Commission about three matters: 1) An alleged violation of the State's criminal trespass statutes; 2) Your recommendation that the Commission adopt an ordinance in effect in St. Petersburg that you believe would be beneficial; 3) Alleged violations of Florida's Religious Freedom Restoration Act. You have also indicated familiarity with a previous opinion from this agency, INQ 15-117, which opined that the relevant section of the Citizens' Bill of Rights would not require that the Coral Gables City Commission provide a forum for presentation of allegations of criminal extortion because such a matter does not lie within the jurisdiction of that agency.

Section 5 of the Citizens' Bill of Rights provides, in pertinent part, for the right of "any interested person" to appear before any municipal or County agency, board or department "for the presentation, adjustment or determination of an issue, request or controversy within the jurisdiction of the governmental entity involved..." Any such presentation is subject to reasonable time limitations imposed by that agency, board or department.

It is apparent to me that some of the issues and concerns raised by you involve matters outside of the jurisdiction of the Coral Gables Commission, which, as a municipal legislative body, does not have authority to direct the decision-making of a religious institution regarding its internal policies or to direct the decisions of a law enforcement agency on criminal matters. Those issues appear to be appropriate for determination in a court of law, not a legislative forum. I am unable to conclude that the Citizens' Bill of Rights provides you with an enforceable right to address the Coral Gables Commission regarding matters outside of its jurisdiction.

However, it does appear to me that a presentation regarding the advisability of the Commission's adopting an ordinance similar to that of another Florida municipality is a matter that falls within the scope of that section of the Citizens' Bill of Rights, since such an issue may be determined by that legislative body.

The Coral Gables Commission should permit you to address it concerning your recommendation that it adopt an ordinance which it has the authority to adopt.

Sincerely,

***Joseph M. Centorino***

Executive Director and General Counsel  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
19 W. Flagler Street, Suite 820  
Miami, FL 33130  
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Fax: (305) 579-0273  
[ethics.miamidade.gov](http://ethics.miamidade.gov)



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**Cc:** Jim Cason <[jimcason@coralgables.com](mailto:jimcason@coralgables.com)>; Frank Quesada <[frank@coralgables.com](mailto:frank@coralgables.com)>; Patricia Keon <[PKeon@coralgables.com](mailto:PKeon@coralgables.com)>; Vince Lago <[VLago@coralgables.com](mailto:VLago@coralgables.com)>; Jeannett Slesnick <[slesnick@coralgables.com](mailto:slesnick@coralgables.com)>; Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark <[cswanson@coralgables.com](mailto:cswanson@coralgables.com)>; Edward Hudak <[ehudak@coralgables.com](mailto:ehudak@coralgables.com)>; Miriam Ramos <[mramos@coralgables.com](mailto:mramos@coralgables.com)>

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## **Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)**

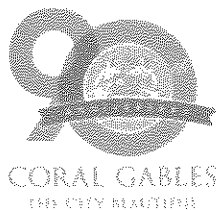
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**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 4:38 PM  
**To:** 'amendmentone@comcast.net'; Centorino, Joseph (COE)  
**Cc:** Perez, Martha D. (COE); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Murawski, Michael P. (COE); Ramos, Miriam  
**Subject:** RE: INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)  
**Attachments:** RE: City of Coral Gables in Open and Notorious Violation of Florida's Religious Freedom Restoration Act

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**Craig E. Leen, City Attorney**  
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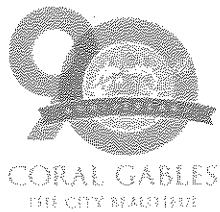
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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 2:28 PM

**To:** Craig Leen <[cleen@coralgables.com](mailto:cleen@coralgables.com)>; Manuel Guarch <[mguarch@reyeslawfirmmpa.com](mailto:mguarch@reyeslawfirmmpa.com)>; Israel Reyes <[ireyes@reyeslawfirmmpa.com](mailto:ireyes@reyeslawfirmmpa.com)>; Ethics (COE) <[ethics@miamidade.gov](mailto:ethics@miamidade.gov)>

**Cc:** Jim Cason <[jimcason@coralgables.com](mailto:jimcason@coralgables.com)>; Frank Quesada <[frank@coralgables.com](mailto:frank@coralgables.com)>; Patricia Keon <[PKeon@coralgables.com](mailto:PKeon@coralgables.com)>; Vince Lago <[VLago@coralgables.com](mailto:VLago@coralgables.com)>; Jeannett Slesnick <[slesnick@coralgables.com](mailto:slesnick@coralgables.com)>;

Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark <[cswanson@coralgables.com](mailto:cswanson@coralgables.com)>; Edward Hudak <[ehudak@coralgables.com](mailto:ehudak@coralgables.com)>; Miriam Ramos



**Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)**

---

**From:** amendmentone@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 20, 2016 6:21 PM  
**To:** Centorino, Joseph (COE)  
**Cc:** Craig 'Leen; Perez, Martha D. (COE); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Murawski, Michael P. (COE)  
**Subject:** I'm not going away  
**Attachments:** aclu.doc

John B. Thompson, J.D., M.A.  
5721 Riviera Drive  
Coral Gables, Florida 33146  
305-666-4366  
[amendmentone@comcast.net](mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net)

February 20, 2016

Nancy Abudu, Attorney  
Legal Director  
ACLU Foundation of Florida, Inc.  
4500 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 340  
Miami, Florida 33137-3227

Re: Unconstitutional Enforcement of Criminal Trespass Warnings by the City of  
Coral Gables, Florida

Dear Ms. Abudu:

I am a conservative Christian, a former lawyer, and one who enthusiastically shares a number of the ACLU's historic concerns about the increasing deprivation of constitutional rights by local, state, and national governments.

I commend you and the Florida ACLU for your currently pending lawsuit, Tuttle, Young, and Flaunce v. City of Sarasota, Case No. 2012 CA 003341 NC, in which you personally are one of the record counsel.

As you know, in Tuttle you are seeking declaratory and other relief from the Sarasota Police Department's issuance and enforcement of criminal trespass warnings against individuals on private property and on public property.

You importantly assert, for example, that the City's failure to provide an alleged trespasser on private property a judicial proceeding (a hearing) by which he/she might challenge the propriety of the private property trespass warnings denies that individual his due process rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution. Put simply government cannot deprive a citizen of his liberty rights by denying him the due process by which to assert and vindicate those rights.

I completely agree with you. So I write to let you know that this same thing, only worse, is going on right here in Miami-Dade County in the City of Coral Gables. Coral Gables has its own trespass warning

ordinance, Section 42-24 of the City's Code, which the Gables Police Department uses to expel folks from public property, with no hearing provided them by which to challenge the propriety of the trespass warning. The City's outside lawyers say anybody can be arrested for being on any kind of property--public, private, quasi-public--with absolutely no remedy--no hearing of any kind--by which to challenge the trespass warning used to arrest him/her.

This violates the clear holding of the Eleventh Circuit Court in *Catron v. St. Petersburg*, which required that a due process hearing be provided.

Coral Gables is presently threatening arrest of individuals on quasi-public property by claiming that Florida Statutes 810.08 and 810.09 can be used to do so even though there is no "threat to public safety or welfare" which threat those statutes facially require.

This scheme is also a violation by Coral Gables of the Florida Constitution's prohibition against the use of the "public power for a private purpose." The City of Coral Gables Police Department has literally been commandeered as if its officers, while on-duty, were acting as bouncers in a private bar. This is not just the militarization of municipal law enforcement. It is the militarization of it upon private request.

And of course, the City of Coral Gables offers absolutely no due process hearing--NONE-- to challenge these quasi-public property trespass warnings and arrests, despite the holding in *Wood v. State of Florida*, 2003 WL 1955433 (Fla.Cir.Ct.) that trespass warnings may not be used to restrict First Amendment activity on private property that is quasi-public in nature by virtue of the public's general access to it. Shopping malls, churches, other facilities open to the public take on the character of the public square when it comes to First Amendment activity that is not disruptive but is rather a hallmark of a robust democracy.

To compound Coral Gables' restraint on the First Amendment, delineated above, its City Attorney is presently denying me the opportunity to address the Coral Gables Commission to submit a proposed amendment to its current trespass warning that would provide due process hearings as to trespass warnings on public, quasi-public, and private property, as you and I believe the United States Constitution requires.

I have even secured a formal ruling from the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust that states:

**"The Coral Gables Commission should permit you to address it concerning your recommendation that it adopt an ordinance which it has the authority to adopt."**

However, the Coral Gables City Attorney refuses to allow me to address the City Commission, unless I present the proposed ordinance he wants rather than the one I want. This amounts to prior restraint on steroids by a City official who thinks that the First Amendment can be used to dictate what speech citizens utter in a governmental setting!

So what we have in Coral Gables is the use of the Police Department to violate a) Florida Statutes 810.08 and 810.09, b) the Eleventh Circuit's *Catron v. St. Petersburg* holding that should bind Coral Gables, c) the Florida Constitution's prohibition against the use of public power for a private purpose, d) our County Charter's Citizens' Bill of Rights guaranteeing the right to petition the government, and e) the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing due process hearings by which to challenge the deprivation of liberty rights through trespass warnings.

I should like to encourage the Florida ACLU to take a look at this situation and consider any necessary and property means to educate the City of Coral Gables that the United States Constitution applies not just to Sarasota but to it as well.

I would be delighted to be a plaintiff in any legal action against the City of Coral Gables.

I end by noting that I teach Civics to inmates in our Florida prisons. They understand the First Amendment better than do Coral Gables' officials and their lawyers. It may be time for a Civics lesson in "The City Beautiful."

Regards, Jack Thompson

John B. Thompson, J.D., M.A.  
5721 Riviera Drive  
Coral Gables, Florida 33146  
305-666-4366  
amendmentone@comcast.net

February 16, 2016

Joseph M. Centorino  
Executive Director and General Counsel  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
19W. Flagler Street, Suite 820  
Miami, Florida Via email to [ethics@miamidade.gov](mailto:ethics@miamidade.gov) and Fax to 305-579-0273

Re: Ongoing Violation of Section 6 of Miami-Dade Citizens' Bill of Rights by  
Coral Gables City Commission

Dear Mr. Centorino:

I hope this finds you well. I am writing about the above and responding to your email of June 11, 2015, to Coral Gables' request, in Inquiry 15-117, as to whether or not I have and have had a right to appear before the Gables City Commission on a particular issue. This response is long overdue.

First off, thank you for taking the time to answer the City's inquiry. However, one gets the response one wants when one seeks that response in the shadows, not involving the other side in the inquiry.

Gables City Attorney Craig Leen keeps referring to your letter of June 11, 2015, as fully dispositive and binding upon all of us on February 16, 2016, when in fact the situation has changed dramatically since then. The City's use of your June 2015 letter is analogous to using a simple magnetic compass as a navigational device on the orbiting Space Station.

Since June, Granada Presbyterian Church, located at 950 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida, has issued a criminal trespass warning that not only violates the Constitution of our denomination (so says the chair of our denomination's highest ecclesiastical court) but that also violates, facially, Florida's trespass warning statutes, 810.08 and 810.09. It also violates an Eleventh Circuit Court ruling as to such trespass warnings.

The City of Coral Gables' Police Department is now threatening me with arrest if I go and sit quietly in a pew in that church. This gives rise to a 42 USC 1983 claim, as right now this municipality is illegally using government force for a private purpose in violation of our State Constitution.

The City of St. Petersburg, Florida, has a municipal ordinance providing a due process-mandated hearing to anyone who is targeted by such a trespass warning, and I believe the Commission should hear from a citizen that it would do well to adopt a similar city ordinance to be in compliance with the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that mandates a hearing.

Further, as you know, Florida has a Religious Freedom Restoration Act that the courts have held constitutional when utilized by a state. In this regard, the City of Coral Gables is in clear violation of Florida's RFRA, Florida Statutes, Chapter 761, by threatening me with its using its cops to enter onto private property to which the public has free access for the purpose of infringing upon my right to worship. If such Gestapo tactics do not violate Florida's RFRA, then nothing could violate it. The Gables cannot possibly show a "compelling state interest" in doing such a thuggish thing.

Now, if you will re-read your letter of June 11, you will see that Mr. Ramos of the City of Coral Gables only asked you about whether or not a Granada Elder who is also the Assistant Police Chief in the Gables should be wearing both hats in this extortionate setting.

Here and now, eight months later, we are all WAY beyond that narrow inquiry. I should like to note, however, that I was absolutely right to express my concern, because that Assistant Police Chief, made aware of the impropriety of using his Elder office to enhance the extortionate use of the Police Department for a private purpose, had to pledge to both his employer and his Session that he was taking himself out of this dual extortion loop. I like being right, but I am now asking for your opinion on something else I am right about:

Whether I have a Right, under our County's Bill of Rights, to address the Gables Commission about:

1. Its ongoing violation of the State's criminal trespass warning statutes;
2. Its need for a municipal ordinance like St. Petersburg's that the Eleventh Circuit finds it should have; and
3. Coral Gables' shocking, severe, and consequential thumbing of its nose at Florida's Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The above three concerns go way beyond the misconduct, since self-admitted, of a Gables Police official using his law enforcement muscle to vitiate his ecclesiastical function.

Please advise as soon as is convenient as to whether or not I might interrupt a City Commission meetings self-congratulatory moments with a matter of actual public import.

Regards, Jack Thompson

**Title XLIV**  
CIVIL RIGHTS

**Chapter 761**  
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

**[View Entire Chapter](#)**

**CHAPTER 761**  
**RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

761.01 Short title.

761.02 Definitions.

761.03 Free exercise of religion protected.

761.04 Attorney's fees and costs.

761.05 Applicability; construction.

**761.01 Short title.**—This act may be cited as the “Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1998.”

**History.**—s. 1, ch. 98-412.

**761.02 Definitions.**—As used in this act:

(1) “Government” or “state” includes any branch, department, agency, instrumentality, or official or other person acting under color of law of the state, a county, special district, municipality, or any other subdivision of the state.

(2) “Demonstrates” means to meet the burden of going forward with the evidence and of persuasion.

(3) “Exercise of religion” means an act or refusal to act that is substantially motivated by a religious belief, whether or not the religious exercise is compulsory or central to a larger system of religious belief.

**History.**—s. 2, ch. 98-412.

**761.03 Free exercise of religion protected.**—

(1) The government shall not substantially burden a person's exercise of religion, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability, except that government may substantially burden a person's exercise of religion only if it demonstrates that application of the burden to the person:

(a) Is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest; and

(b) Is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.

(2) A person whose religious exercise has been burdened in violation of this section may assert that violation as a claim or defense in a judicial proceeding and obtain appropriate relief.

**History.**—s. 3, ch. 98-412.

**761.04 Attorney's fees and costs.**—The prevailing plaintiff in any action

or proceeding to enforce a provision of this act is entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs to be paid by the government.

History.—s. 4, ch. 98-412.

**761.05 Applicability; construction.—**

(1) This act applies to all state law, and the implementation of that law, whether statutory or otherwise, and whether adopted before or after the enactment of this act.

(2) State law adopted after the date of the enactment of this act is subject to this act unless such law explicitly excludes such application by reference to this act.

(3) Nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize the government to burden any religious belief.

(4) Nothing in this act shall be construed to circumvent the provisions of chapter 893.

(5) Nothing in this act shall be construed to affect, interpret, or in any way address that portion of s. 3, Art. I of the State Constitution prohibiting laws respecting the establishment of religion.

(6) Nothing in this act shall create any rights by an employee against an employer if the employer is not a governmental agency.

(7) Nothing in this act shall be construed to affect, interpret, or in any way address that portion of s. 3, Art. I of the State Constitution and the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States respecting the establishment of religion. This act shall not be construed to permit any practice prohibited by those provisions.

History.—s. 5, ch. 98-412.

**Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)**

---

**From:** amendmentone@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 4:45 PM  
**To:** Craig Leen  
**Cc:** Centorino, Joseph (COE); Perez, Martha D. (COE); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Murawski, Michael P. (COE); Miriam Ramos  
**Subject:** Re: INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

I got that one, Mr. Leen. I am going to address the need to have an ordinance in the Gables that address not just public property but private property to which the public has access. You may not want me to talk about that, but that is what I am going to talk about. I know exactly what you sent me. Put me on the first of the two agendas, and confirm that you are going to let me, as if you were not the speech and-thought police, talk about the ordinance as I recommend it, not as you, wanting to control the citizenry, want it.

---

**From:** "Craig Leen" <cleen@coralgables.com>  
**To:** "amendmentone@comcast.net" <amendmentone@comcast.net>, "Joseph Centorino (COE)" <CENTORI@miamidade.gov>  
**Cc:** "Martha D. Perez (COE)" <perezmd@miamidade.gov>, "Gilma-M. Diaz-Greco (COE)" <G DIAZGR@miamidade.gov>, "Michael P. Murawski (COE)" <MURAWSK@miamidade.gov>, "Miriam Ramos" <mramos@coralgables.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 4:38:28 PM  
**Subject:** RE: INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

Attached is the email I sent you earlier this week.

Best regards,  
Craig

**Craig E. Leen, City Attorney**  
*Board Certified by the Florida Bar in*  
*City, County and Local Government Law*  
City of Coral Gables  
405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, Florida 33134  
Phone: (305) 460-5218  
Fax: (305) 460-5264  
Email: [cleen@coralgables.com](mailto:cleen@coralgables.com)



*Celebrating 90 years of a vision realized*



---

**From:** Leen, Craig  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 4:37 PM  
**To:** 'amendmentone@comcast.net'; Joseph Centorino (COE)  
**Cc:** Martha D. Perez (COE); Gilma M. Diaz-Greco (COE); Michael P. Murawski (COE); Ramos, Miriam  
**Subject:** RE: INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

Mr. Thompson,

I already informed you earlier this week by email that the City would place you on the agenda to discuss your proposal that the City adopt the St. Petersburg ordinance, which allows for appeals of trespass warnings issued on city property. The potential dates for your personal appearance are March 15 or March 29. Please advise as to which date you would prefer.

**Craig E. Leen, City Attorney**  
*Board Certified by the Florida Bar in*  
*City, County and Local Government Law*  
City of Coral Gables  
405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, Florida 33134  
Phone: (305) 460-5218  
Fax: (305) 460-5264  
Email: [cleen@coralgables.com](mailto:cleen@coralgables.com)



**CORAL GABLES**  
THE CITY MAINTAINS

*Celebrating 90 years of a dream realized.*

---

**From:** amendmentone@comcast.net [mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 4:28 PM  
**To:** Joseph Centorino (COE)  
**Cc:** Leen, Craig; Martha D. Perez (COE); Gilma M. Diaz-Greco (COE); Michael P. Murawski (COE)  
**Subject:** Re: INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

Mr. Centorino, thank you very much. Mr. Leen, what meeting agenda am I to be on? Please advise asap. Jack Thompson

---

**From:** "Joseph Centorino (COE)" <CENTORI@miamidade.gov>  
**To:** "amendmentone@comcast.net" <amendmentone@comcast.net>

**Cc:** "Craig 'Leen" <cleen@coralgables.com>, "Martha D. Perez (COE)" <perezmd@miamidade.gov>, "Gilma M. Diaz-Greco (COE)" <GDIAZGR@miamidade.gov>, "Michael P. Murawski (COE)" <MURAWSK@miamidade.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 3:29:00 PM  
**Subject:** INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

Mr. Thompson:

You have inquired regarding your right to be heard under Section 5 of the Miami-Dade County Citizens' Bill of Rights in connection with issues you wish to present to the Coral Gables City Commission. The issues arise out of a pending controversy involving the Granada Presbyterian Church's issuance of a criminal trespass order against you which you believe would be enforced by the Coral Gables Police Department. You have indicated an intent to address the Commission about three matters: 1) An alleged violation of the State's criminal trespass statutes; 2) Your recommendation that the Commission adopt an ordinance in effect in St. Petersburg that you believe would be beneficial; 3) Alleged violations of Florida's Religious Freedom Restoration Act. You have also indicated familiarity with a previous opinion from this agency, INQ 15-117, which opined that the relevant section of the Citizens' Bill of Rights would not require that the Coral Gables City Commission provide a forum for presentation of allegations of criminal extortion because such a matter does not lie within the jurisdiction of that agency.

Section 5 of the Citizens' Bill of Rights provides, in pertinent part, for the right of "any interested person" to appear before any municipal or County agency, board or department "for the presentation, adjustment or determination of an issue, request or controversy within the jurisdiction of the governmental entity involved..." Any such presentation is subject to reasonable time limitations imposed by that agency, board or department.

It is apparent to me that some of the issues and concerns raised by you involve matters outside of the jurisdiction of the Coral Gables Commission, which, as a municipal legislative body, does not have authority to direct the decision-making of a religious institution regarding its internal policies or to direct the decisions of a law enforcement agency on criminal matters. Those issues appear to be appropriate for determination in a court of law, not a legislative forum. I am unable to conclude that the Citizens' Bill of Rights provides you with an enforceable right to address the Coral Gables Commission regarding matters outside of its jurisdiction.

However, it does appear to me that a presentation regarding the advisability of the Commission's adopting an ordinance similar to that of another Florida municipality is a matter that falls within the scope of that section of the Citizens' Bill of Rights, since such an issue may be determined by that legislative body.

The Coral Gables Commission should permit you to address it concerning your recommendation that it adopt an ordinance which it has the authority to adopt.

Sincerely,

***Joseph M. Centorino***

Executive Director and General Counsel  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
19 W. Flagler Street, Suite 820  
Miami, FL 33130  
Tel: (305) 579-2594  
Fax: (305) 579-0273  
[ethics.miamidade.gov](http://ethics.miamidade.gov)



**From:** [amendmentone@comcast.net](mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net) [mailto:[amendmentone@comcast.net](mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 2:28 PM

**To:** Craig Leen <[cleen@coralgables.com](mailto:cleen@coralgables.com)>; Manuel Guarch <[mguarch@reyeslawfirmmpa.com](mailto:mguarch@reyeslawfirmmpa.com)>; Israel Reyes <[ireyes@reyeslawfirmmpa.com](mailto:ireyes@reyeslawfirmmpa.com)>; Ethics (COE) <[ethics@miamidade.gov](mailto:ethics@miamidade.gov)>

**Cc:** Jim Cason <[jimcason@coralgables.com](mailto:jimcason@coralgables.com)>; Frank Quesada <[frank@coralgables.com](mailto:frank@coralgables.com)>; Patricia Keon <[PKeon@coralgables.com](mailto:PKeon@coralgables.com)>; Vince Lago <[VLago@coralgables.com](mailto:VLago@coralgables.com)>; Jeannett Slesnick <[slesnick@coralgables.com](mailto:slesnick@coralgables.com)>; Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark <[cswanson@coralgables.com](mailto:cswanson@coralgables.com)>; Edward Hudak <[ehudak@coralgables.com](mailto:ehudak@coralgables.com)>; Miriam Ramos <[mramos@coralgables.com](mailto:mramos@coralgables.com)>

**Subject:** For Joe Centorino: Illegal Prohibition of Jack Thompson from Addressing Gables City Commission

John B. Thompson, J.D., M.A.  
5721 Riviera Drive  
Coral Gables, Florida 33146  
305-666-4366  
[amendmentone@comcast.net](mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net)

February 16, 2016

Joseph M. Centorino  
Executive Director and General Counsel  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
19W. Flagler Street, Suite 820  
Miami, Florida Via email to [ethics@miamidade.gov](mailto:ethics@miamidade.gov) and Fax to 305-579-0273

Re: Ongoing Violation of Section 6 of Miami-Dade Citizens' Bill of Rights by  
Coral Gables City Commission

Dear Mr. Centorino:

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The City of St. Petersburg, Florida, has a municipal ordinance providing a due process-mandated hearing to anyone who is targeted by such a trespass warning, and I believe the Commission should hear from a citizen that it would do well to adopt a similar city ordinance to be in compliance with the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that mandates a hearing.

Further, as you know, Florida has a Religious Freedom Restoration Act that the courts have held constitutional when utilized by a state. In this regard, the City of Coral Gables is in clear violation of Florida's RFRA, Florida Statutes, Chapter 761, by threatening me with its using its cops to enter onto private property to which the public has free access for the purpose of infringing upon my right to worship. If such Gestapo tactics do not violate Florida's RFRA, then nothing could violate it. The Gables cannot possibly show a "compelling state interest" in doing such a thuggish thing.

Now, if you will re-read your letter of June 11, you will see that Mr. Ramos of the City of Coral Gables only asked you about whether or not a Granada Elder who is also the Assistant Police Chief in the Gables should be wearing both hats in this extortionate setting.

Here and now, eight months later, we are all WAY beyond that narrow inquiry. I should like to note, however, that I was absolutely right to express my concern, because that Assistant Police Chief, made aware of the impropriety of using his Elder office to enhance the extortionate use of the Police Department for a private purpose, had to pledge to both his employer and his Session that he was taking himself out of this dual extortion loop. I like being right, but I am now asking for your opinion on something else I am right about:

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The above three concerns go way beyond the misconduct, since self-admitted, of a Gables Police official using his law enforcement muscle to vitiate his ecclesiastical function.

Please advise as soon as is convenient as to whether or not I might interrupt a City Commission meetings self-congratulatory moments with a matter of actual public import.

Regards, Jack Thompson

Please Note: Florida has a very broad Public Records Law. Most written communications to or from State and Local Officials regarding State or Local business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may therefore be subject to public disclosure.

**Díaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)**

---

**From:** amendmentone@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 6:22 PM  
**To:** Centorino, Joseph (COE)  
**Cc:** cleen@coralgables.com; Perez, Martha D. (COE); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Murawski, Michael P. (COE)  
**Subject:** Re:INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

Mr. Centurion, Mr Leen refuses to abide by your very clear opinion. What do we do about that?  
Mr. Thompson:

You have inquired regarding your right to be heard under Section 5 of the Miami-Dade County Citizens' Bill of Rights in connection with issues you wish to present to the Coral Gables City Commission. The issues arise out of a pending controversy involving the Granada Presbyterian Church's issuance of a criminal trespass order against you which you believe would be enforced by the Coral Gables Police Department. You have indicated an intent to address the Commission about three matters: 1) An alleged violation of the State's criminal trespass statutes; 2) Your recommendation that the Commission adopt an ordinance in effect in St. Petersburg that you believe would be beneficial; 3) Alleged violations of Florida's Religious Freedom Restoration Act. You have also indicated familiarity with a previous opinion from this agency, INQ 15-117, which opined that the relevant section of the Citizens' Bill of Rights would not require that the Coral Gables City Commission provide a forum for presentation of allegations of criminal extortion because such a matter does not lie within the jurisdiction of that agency.

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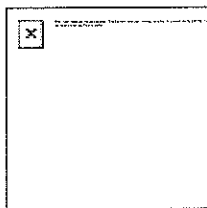
The Coral Gables Commission should permit you to address it concerning your recommendation that it adopt an ordinance which it has the authority to adopt.

Sincerely,

***Joseph M. Centorino***

Executive Director and General Counsel  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
19 W. Flagler Street, Suite 820  
Miami, FL 33130  
Tel: (305) 579-2594

Fax: (305) 579-0273  
[ethics.miamidade.gov](mailto:ethics.miamidade.gov)



**From:** [amendmentone@comcast.net](mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net) [<mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 2:28 PM  
**To:** Craig Leen <[cleen@coralgables.com](mailto:cleen@coralgables.com)>; Manuel Guarch <[mguarch@reyeslawfirmmpa.com](mailto:mguarch@reyeslawfirmmpa.com)>; Israel Reyes <[ireyes@reyeslawfirmmpa.com](mailto:ireyes@reyeslawfirmmpa.com)>; Ethics (COE) <[ethics@miamidade.gov](mailto:ethics@miamidade.gov)>  
**Cc:** Jim Cason <[jimcason@coralgables.com](mailto:jimcason@coralgables.com)>; Frank Quesada <[frank@coralgables.com](mailto:frank@coralgables.com)>; Patricia Keon <[PKeon@coralgables.com](mailto:PKeon@coralgables.com)>; Vince Lago <[VLago@coralgables.com](mailto:VLago@coralgables.com)>; Jeannett Slesnick <[slesnick@coralgables.com](mailto:slesnick@coralgables.com)>; Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark <[cswanson@coralgables.com](mailto:cswanson@coralgables.com)>; Edward Hudak <[ehudak@coralgables.com](mailto:ehudak@coralgables.com)>; Miriam Ramos <[mramos@coralgables.com](mailto:mramos@coralgables.com)>  
**Subject:** For Joe Centorino: Illegal Prohibition of Jack Thompson from Addressing Gables City Commission

John B. Thompson, J.D., M.A.  
5721 Riviera Drive  
Coral Gables, Florida 33146  
305-666-4366  
[amendmentone@comcast.net](mailto:amendmentone@comcast.net)

February 16, 2016

Joseph M. Centorino  
Executive Director and General Counsel  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
19W. Flagler Street, Suite 820  
Miami, Florida Via email to [ethics@miamidade.gov](mailto:ethics@miamidade.gov) and Fax to 305-579-0273

Re: Ongoing Violation of Section 6 of Miami-Dade Citizens' Bill of Rights by  
Coral Gables City Commission

Dear Mr. Centorino:

I hope this finds you well. I am writing about the above and responding to your email of June 11, 2015, to Coral Gables' request, in Inquiry 15-117, as to whether or not I have and have had a right to appear before the Gables City Commission on a particular issue.  
This response is long overdue.

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The City of Coral Gables' Police Department is now threatening me with arrest if I go and sit quietly in a pew in that church. This gives rise to a 42 USC 1983 claim, as right now this municipality is illegally using government force for a private purpose in violation of our State Constitution.

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Further, as you know, Florida has a Religious Freedom Restoration Act that the courts have held constitutional when utilized by a state. In this regard, the City of Coral Gables is in clear violation of Florida's RFRA, Florida Statutes, Chapter 761, by threatening me with its using its cops to enter onto private property to which the public has free access for the purpose of infringing upon my right to worship. If such Gestapo tactics do not violate Florida's RFRA, then nothing could violate it. The Gables cannot possibly show a "compelling state interest" in doing such a thuggish thing.

Now, if you will re-read your letter of June 11, you will see that Mr. Ramos of the City of Coral Gables only asked you about whether or not a Granada Elder who is also the Assistant Police Chief in the Gables should be wearing both hats in this extortionate setting.

Here and now, eight months later, we are all WAY beyond that narrow inquiry. I should like to note, however, that I was absolutely right to express my concern, because that Assistant Police Chief, made aware of the impropriety of using his Elder office to enhance the extortionate use of the Police Department for a private purpose, had to pledge to both his employer and his Session that he was taking himself out of this dual extortion loop. I like being right, but I am now asking for your opinion on something else I am right about:

Whether I have a Right, under our County's Bill of Rights, to address the Gables Commission about:

1. Its ongoing violation of the State's criminal trespass warning statutes;
2. Its need for a municipal ordinance like St. Petersburg's that the Eleventh Circuit finds it should have; and
3. Coral Gables' shocking, severe, and consequential thumbing of its nose at Florida's Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The above three concerns go way beyond the misconduct, since self-admitted, of a Gables Police official using his law enforcement muscle to vitiate his ecclesiastical function.

Please advise as soon as is convenient as to whether or not I might interrupt a City Commission meetings self-congratulatory moments with a matter of actual public import.



Regards, Jack Thompson

**Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)**

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**From:** amendmentone@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 6:27 PM  
**To:** cleen@coralgables.com; Centorino, Joseph (COE)  
**Cc:** Perez, Martha D. (COE); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Murawski, Michael P. (COE); mramos@coralgables.com  
**Subject:** Re: INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

Mr. Centurion, Mr Leen is LYING. I never agreed to his restriction. I wish to propose an ordinance that a municipality can enact that is not at odds with FS 810.08 and 810.09.

Mr. Centorino,

Thank you for your thoughtful opinion, with which I am in full agreement. I just want to be clear for purposes of the public record that the City has always taken the position that a member of the public may be placed on the agenda to discuss matters within the City Commission's jurisdiction, consistent with the Citizens Bill of Rights. In fact, section 2-69(e)(1) of the City Code provides a similar right to access the agenda on a matter within the City Commission's jurisdiction. Also, I would simply note that the City informed Mr. Thompson on Tuesday, prior to issuance of this opinion, that he would be placed on the agenda to propose adoption of an ordinance by the City similar to the St. Petersburg ordinance. Today, Mr. Thompson and the City agreed that this would occur at the City Commission meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

I would respectfully request that you include this response in your file with this opinion.

Best regards,

**Craig E. Leen, City Attorney**  
*Board Certified by the Florida Bar in*  
*City, County and Local Government Law*  
City of Coral Gables  
405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, Florida 33134  
Phone: (305) 460-5218  
Fax: (305) 460-5264  
Email: [cleen@coralgables.com](mailto:cleen@coralgables.com)



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**From:** Centorino, Joseph (COE) [mailto:CENTORI@miamidade.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 3:29 PM

**To:** 'amendmentone@comcast.net'

**Cc:** Leen, Craig; Perez, Martha D. (COE); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Murawski, Michael P. (COE)

**Subject:** INQ 16-49 John B. Thompson, J.D. (Citizens' Bill of Rights #5 Right to be Heard)

Mr. Thompson:

You have inquired regarding your right to be heard under Section 5 of the Miami-Dade County Citizens' Bill of Rights in connection with issues you wish to present to the Coral Gables City Commission. The issues arise out of a pending controversy involving the Granada Presbyterian Church's issuance of a criminal trespass order against you which you believe would be enforced by the Coral Gables Police Department. You have indicated an intent to address the Commission about three matters: 1) An alleged violation of the State's criminal trespass statutes; 2) Your recommendation that the Commission adopt an ordinance in effect in St. Petersburg that you believe would be beneficial; 3) Alleged violations of Florida's Religious Freedom Restoration Act. You have also indicated familiarity with a previous opinion from this agency, INQ 15-117, which opined that the relevant section of the Citizens' Bill of Rights would not require that the Coral Gables City Commission provide a forum for presentation of allegations of criminal extortion because such a matter does not lie within the jurisdiction of that agency.

Section 5 of the Citizens' Bill of Rights provides, in pertinent part, for the right of "any interested person" to appear before any municipal or County agency, board or department "for the presentation, adjustment or determination of an issue, request or controversy within the jurisdiction of the governmental entity involved..." Any such presentation is subject to reasonable time limitations imposed by that agency, board or department.

It is apparent to me that some of the issues and concerns raised by you involve matters outside of the jurisdiction of the Coral Gables Commission, which, as a municipal legislative body, does not have authority to direct the decision-making of a religious institution regarding its internal policies or to direct the decisions of a law enforcement agency on criminal matters. Those issues appear to be appropriate for determination in a court of law, not a legislative forum. I am unable to conclude that the Citizens' Bill of Rights provides you with an enforceable right to address the Coral Gables Commission regarding matters outside of its jurisdiction.

However, it does appear to me that a presentation regarding the advisability of the Commission's adopting an ordinance similar to that of another Florida municipality is a matter that falls within the scope of that section of the Citizens' Bill of Rights, since such an issue may be determined by that legislative body.

The Coral Gables Commission should permit you to address it concerning your recommendation that it adopt an ordinance which it has the authority to adopt.

Sincerely,

***Joseph M. Centorino***

Executive Director and General Counsel

Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

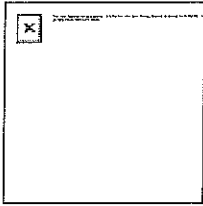
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**Cc:** Jim Cason <[jimcason@coralgables.com](mailto:jimcason@coralgables.com)>; Frank Quesada <[frank@coralgables.com](mailto:frank@coralgables.com)>; Patricia Keon <[PKeon@coralgables.com](mailto:PKeon@coralgables.com)>; Vince Lago <[VLago@coralgables.com](mailto:VLago@coralgables.com)>; Jeannett Slesnick <[slesnick@coralgables.com](mailto:slesnick@coralgables.com)>; Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark <[cswanson@coralgables.com](mailto:cswanson@coralgables.com)>; Edward Hudak <[ehudak@coralgables.com](mailto:ehudak@coralgables.com)>; Miriam Ramos <[mramos@coralgables.com](mailto:mramos@coralgables.com)>  
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