

Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)

From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2017 10:52 AM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: FW: INQ 17-219 Kevin Newman, Esq. State & Federal Communications (Lobbyist Training)

INQ 17-219 Newman

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2017 10:35 AM
To: Turay, Radia (COE) <Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <Martha.Perez2@miamidade.gov>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>; Sanchez, Gerald (CAO) <Gerald.Sanchez@miamidade.gov>; Kirtley, Eddie (CAO) <Eddie.Kirtley@miamidade.gov>
Subject: FW: INQ 17-219 Kevin Newman, Esq. State & Federal Communications (Lobbyist Training)

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2017 10:35 AM
To: 'klnewman@stateandfed.com' <klnewman@stateandfed.com>
Subject: INQ 17-219 Kevin Newman, Esq. State & Federal Communications (Lobbyist Training)

Mr. Newman,

This is in response to your inquiry concerning whether a lobbyist who withdraws his or lobbyist registration with Miami-Dade County prior to completing the ethics course for lobbyists required for County lobbyists, under Section 2-11.1(bb) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, must take the ethics course. You are advised that the ethics course requirement applies to each lobbyist who registers to lobby in the County. The ordinance provides for no waiver of the required course in the event that someone cancels lobbyist registration. Therefore, the lobbyist ethics course must be completed by the lobbyist within 60 days of registering, per the ordinance.

I might add that I cannot conceive of any reason for an individual to “cancel” his or her lobbyist registration, other than to avoid taking the required course. The 60-day grace period for taking the course provides a convenience for those lobbyists who need to lobby immediately following registration, and who may not be able to complete the course before the need to lobby arises. The only fee that is required for registered lobbyists in the County, other than the fee for the ethics course, is payable at the time of registration. The registration is valid for the balance of the calendar year regardless of whether one lobbies or not. I see no benefit to “cancelling” one’s registration, other than the avoidance of the required course. To waive the course under these circumstances would provide the means for a lobbyist to evade the course requirement, which is not the purpose of the 60-day grace period.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Centorino

Executive Director and General Counsel
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
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From: Thompson, Robert A. (COE)
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2017 9:52 AM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE) <Joseph.Centorino@miamidade.gov>
Subject: FW: Lobbyist Training

Please see below.
Robert Thompson

From: Kevin L. Newman [<mailto:knewman@stateandfed.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 3:58 PM
To: Thompson, Robert A. (COE) <Robert.Thompson@miamidade.gov>
Subject: Lobbyist Training

Good afternoon, Mr. Thompson:

I just left a voicemail for you but I thought I would follow up with an email. I have a quick question regarding the refresher course lobbyists must take every two years.

If a lobbyist, who has been continuously registered, withdraws their registration early and prior to completing the refresher course, are they still required to complete the course? Or will they simply be required to take the course within 60 days of registering (like all new lobbyists) if they decide to register again at some point in the future?

Thanks so much for your assistance!

Kevin L. Newman, Esq. Research Associate



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