

## Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)

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**From:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 3:04 PM  
**To:** Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)  
**Subject:** FW: Limitations on Doing Business with the County Ethics Opinion INQ 17-33  
**Attachments:** INQ 17-33 Cooper.pdf; Cooper bluebook.pdf

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**From:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 3:03 PM  
**To:** Cooper Jr., Rhaldal (MDFR) <Rhaldal.CooperJr@miamidade.gov>  
**Subject:** Limitations on Doing Business with the County Ethics Opinion INQ 17-33

Firefighter Cooper:

Attached is the Limitations on Doing Business with the County Ethics Opinion. Please note that it indicates that you may enter contracts with Miami-Dade County, but not with the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department. Further, you are required to request permission for outside employment annually, and you may not lobby for any contract between your business and Miami-Dade County. (See the County Ethics Code at Secs. 2-11.1 (c) and (m)(1).).

You may print a copy of the letter and submit it to the Procurement Department and also print a copy for your records. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Gilma (Mimi) Diaz-Greco  
Staff Attorney



Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
19 W. Flagler Street, Suite 820  
Miami, FL 33130  
Tel: (305) 579-2594  
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[www.facebook.com/MiamiDadeEthics](http://www.facebook.com/MiamiDadeEthics)

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Via email at:

[IRCooper42@Gmail.com](mailto:IRCooper42@Gmail.com)

February 02, 2017

Rhaldal Cooper Jr.  
Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department  
(Address withheld  
Pursuant to Chapter 119,  
Florida Statutes)

*Please submit this letter to  
the Procurement  
Department. The Ethics  
Commission does not submit  
this letter on your behalf*

Re: **INQ 17-33**, Limitations on Doing Business with the County

Dear Firefighter Cooper:

On January 30, 2017, you asked about limitations in doing business with the County through your privately owned business, Premium BBQ, LLC d/b/a Coops Pit BBQ (Coops Pit BBQ). You are employed as a Fire Lieutenant with the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department (MDFR).

Coops Pit BBQ may enter into contracts with Miami-Dade County but not with the MDFR. This opinion is based on the following facts and legal analysis:

### OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

Work conducted for your privately owned business constitutes outside employment. The Ethics Code prohibits County employees from engaging in conflicting outside employment. You will be required to obtain permission to engage in outside employment annually from your supervisor and file related financial disclosure forms every year. Conflicting employment is sometimes created when a County employee comes in contact with the same or similar people or entities in both his outside employment and in his County job or when he uses the same or similar resources in his outside employment as he uses in his County work. See the County Code at Secs. 2-11.1 (g) and (j).

**Please note that this letter does not grant you permission to engage in outside employment.** You must obtain permission to engage in outside employment annually from your supervisor and file related financial disclosure forms every year.

#### CONTRACTING WITH THE COUNTY

Once you have been granted permission to engage in outside employment, you may enter into a County contract through your privately owned business, Coops Pit BBQ, as long as the contract does not interfere with the full and faithful discharge of your duties to the County. *See* the County Ethics Code at Secs. 2-11.1 (c) (2) and (d).

This includes the condition that you may not participate in determining the contract requirements or in awarding the contract. Additionally, none of your job responsibilities and job descriptions may require you to be involved in the contract in any way including, but not limited to, its enforcement, oversight, administration, amendment, extension, termination or forbearance. Finally, you may **not** work in any County department that would enforce, oversee or administer this contract. Consequently, Coops Pit BBQ may not enter into contracts with the MDFR.

#### LOBBYING

Additionally, you may not lobby the County. In this case, while you not contact anyone within the County in an attempt to **influence** a decision about any contract Coops Pit BBQ is seeking. *See* the County Ethics Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (m)(1).

This opinion construes the Miami-Dade County Ethics Code as it applies to County employee-vendors at Secs. 2-11.1 (c), (d) and (m)(1) only. It is not applicable to any conflicts under other sections of the County Code or to issues related to state or federal laws.

If any of the facts you have presented change or if you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at 305 350-0638.

Sincerely,



Gilma Diaz-Greco  
Staff Attorney

INQ 17-33  
Cooper  
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My BlueBook Profile

### Search for County Employee

Select Department

FIRE RESCUE ▼

Last Name First Name Office Number (305-xxx-xxxx)

Cooper Rhaudal

Exact Match

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First Name	Last Name	Position	Division	Department	Email Address	Phone Number	Office Location
RHAUDAL	COOPER JR	FIRE LT	FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT OPERATIONS	FIRE RESCUE	rhaudal@miamidade.gov	786-331-5000	9300 NW 41 ST Miami FL 33178

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