



May 26, 2005

Ms. Edith Humes-Newbold
Interim Executive Director
South Florida Workforce
7300 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 500
Miami, FL 33126-1234

ETHICS COMMISSIONERS

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Gail A. Dotson, VICE CHAIRPERSON
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Brenda Rivera

ROBERT A. MEYERS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MICHAEL P. MURAWSKI
ADVOCATE

ARDYTH WALKER
STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL

Dear Ms. Humes-Newbold:

I am in receipt of your letter dated May 20, 2005 and I wanted to respond in a timely fashion. I reviewed your questions, checked our files and found a letter that our office sent you one year ago indicating that the Miami-Dade Ethics Commission has no authority to give ethics opinions to board members of the South Florida Workforce. Therefore, I am unable to address the four questions that you posed in your May 20, 2005.

The Florida Commission on Ethics, located in Tallahassee, Florida, has jurisdiction over all state and county boards. The Executive Director of that agency is Bonnie Williams. I suggest you contact the Florida Commission on Ethics for answers to your questions.

If you wish to discuss the above with me in greater detail, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers
Executive Director



INQ 05-81

May 20, 2005

Robert Myers, Executive Director
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust
19 West Flagler Street, Suite 207
Miami, FL 33130

Dear Mr. Myers:

By way of introduction, our agency is the locally designated regional workforce board for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. South Florida Workforce includes authority under two Boards, the South Florida Workforce Board (SFW) and the South Florida Employment & Training Consortium (SFETC). The legislation that governs workforce development boards is the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Public Law 105-22. Per WIA legislation, local workforce investment boards, in partnership with local elected officials, are responsible for the planning and oversight of the local workforce program.

Locally, our board is comprised of forty-five (45) representatives appointed among two counties (Miami-Dade and Monroe) and three municipalities (cities of Miami, Hialeah and Miami Beach). In addition, there are five (5) representatives of the local elected officials from the same two counties and three municipalities who comprise the SFETC. The SFETC serves as the fiscal and administrative entity for the South Florida Workforce, while the SFW Board is responsible for developing local plans, conducting strategic planning and coordinating and managing workforce board activities.

Recently the SFW board chair, who is a Miami-Dade County appointment to the SFW Board, has disclosed that he has engaged in business with a provider of services who receives funding for all of South Florida Workforce funding categories. The chair reported that he sold employee benefit insurance to a service provider within the last fifty days. It was reported by the service provider that the organization was solicited by the chair to purchase the insurance.

We are requesting your ruling on the following:

1. Does the ruling authority for this issue of conflict of interest reside with Miami-Dade County?
2. What are the conditions of the potential conflicts?
3. If conflicts do exist, how should the chair be advised on future courses of action in order to avoid conflict situations?
4. Has the provision of addressing conflict of interest been violated, and can you offer suggestions that we can consider for incorporation in our by-laws to avoid similar situations in the future.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (305) 594-7615 extension 369.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edith Humes-Newbold".

Edith Humes-Newbold
Interim Executive Director

cc: Carlos Alvarez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
Tony E. Crapp, Sr. Assistant Miami-Dade County Manager
Frederick H. Marinelli, SFETC Board Chair
Donald W. Marx, SFW Board Chair
Meria Rodriguez, Executive Director, Youth Co-op, Inc.

Miami-Dade County
Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

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Phone: (305) 579-2594

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Fax
Fax

To: Don Marx

From: Robert Meyers

Fax: (305) 378-1208

Pages: 3

Phone:

Date: 6/8/05

Re: SF Workforce issues **CC:**

Urgent

For Review

Please Comment

Please Reply

Please Recycle

Please find the letter from Mrs. Humes - Newbold & my response to her. Call me if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Robert Meyers

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