

**Meyers, Robert (COE)**

INQ 05-99

**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2005 8:32 AM  
**To:** 'Hernandez, Elizabeth'  
**Subject:** RE: new code provisions-contract attorneys

Liz,

Sorry for not responder sooner. There are no proposed changes to the County Ethics Code that would have an impact on attorneys serving on city boards. As far as the County Ethics Commission is concerned, there are no Code of Ethics provisions that prevent municipalities from hiring attorneys who sit on their boards from serving as special to the same city – with one minor exception. The County Code does place limitations on the ability of municipal board members as individuals or through firms in which they hold a controlling financial interest from transacting business with the municipality. Those municipal board members who are covered by the County's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance (and I realize that Coral Gables has exempted a number of its boards) are not permitted to contract with any agency or department of the city which is subject to the regulation, oversight, management, policy-setting or quasi-judicial authority of the board of which the attorney is a member. Clearly, if the attorney has no controlling financial interest in the firm or the board is exempt from the County Ethics Code requirements, I see no reason why the city should have any reservations about retaining special counsel among those attorneys who sit on the city's boards.

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

Robert

**From:** Hernandez, Elizabeth [mailto:ehernandez@coralgables.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 21, 2005 2:39 PM  
**To:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Subject:** new code provisions-contract attorneys

**we recently came across recent proposed changes to the Ethics Code. Do present provisions prevent attorneys who serve on city boards (which are subject to the Miami Dade County Ethics Code) from serving as special counsel to the city on cases or claims? if so, does this extend to their law firms?**

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6/23/2005