

**Ethics (COE)**

JNO DS- FH

**From:** Ethics (COE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2005 3:26 PM  
**To:** 'wolmers'  
**Subject:** RE: Lobbyist definition

Mr. Wolmers,

Let me attempt to answer your questions.

- 1) The County makes no distinction between paid and unpaid lobbyists.
- 2) Municipalities can adopt language that is more stringent than the County – not more liberal. Therefore, if the County requires an unpaid lobbyist to register, the Town has no authority to waive the registration requirement.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Robert Meyers

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**From:** wolmers [mailto:wolmers@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 21, 2005 12:10 AM  
**To:** ethics@miamidade.gov  
**Subject:** Lobbyist definition

Mr. Meyers,

I seek clarification regarding the definition of a "Lobbyist" as defined by Miami-Dade code, specifically between "Paid" & "Unpaid" status.

It is to my understanding that Miami-Dade does not make a distinction between paid or or unpaid. Is this Correct?

If there is no distinction then I ask whether or not the Lobbyist language in the proposed Cutler Ridge charter **allows for a lobbyist to certify to the Town Council that he is not a paid lobbyist** thereby permitting the lobbyist to completely circumvent the proposed language within the Charter.

If the Cutler Ridge charter provides a loophole in favor of the lobbyist, would then the County lobbyist language take effect?

Respectfully,

Ed Wolmers  
Member,  
Cutler Ridge Charter Committee

The following is a cut and paste of the Charter language:

**Section 7.6 Lobbyists, Principals and Vendors**

9/22/2005

(A) The Town Council shall pass, maintain and enforce an ordinance, which requires all paid lobbyists (as may be defined by the Miami-Dade County Code and/or as may be made more stringent by the Town Council) to:

- (1) Register and pay annual fees as required by ordinance with the Town Clerk prior to lobbying any Town government official ie: Town Council member, employee, board or committee member;
- (2) Disclose in writing all persons and/or entities the lobbyist is representing upon registering and shall update this list within ten (10) days of being retained by a new principal or for a new project of an existing principal; and
- (3) Disclose in writing all Town government officials directly contacted by the lobbyist and any expenditures involved as defined by State law, before the public hearing.

The ordinance shall also direct the Town Clerk to make available to the Town Council, prior to any public hearing, on the event or matter for which a registered lobbyist may appear all disclosures required herein or as otherwise required by State or County law.

(B) Principals in all items requiring a public hearing must disclose in writing to the Town Clerk all moneys paid to a person(s) or entity to support or not object to a matter which is set for a public hearing.

Any violation of subsections (A) or (B) above shall render the issue being lobbied for or sought by the principal voidable.

(C) Any vendor of products or services who directly or through a member of the person's immediate family or through a political action committee or through any other person makes a campaign contribution to a candidate who is elected Mayor, Vice-Mayor or Council member, shall be required to disclose said contribution and if said Vendor fails to disclose he/she/it shall be barred from selling any product or service to the Town for a period of two years following the swearing in of the subject elected official.