

**Meyers, Robert (COE)**

**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2006 2:46 PM  
**To:** Southwell, Miguel (Airport)  
**Subject:** Your request for opinion

Dear Mr. Southwell,

I am in receipt of a fax copy of a memorandum dated November 2, 2006. This is to confirm that we spoke telephonically about this matter and I agreed to provide you with a written response. The relevant facts are that you have been asked by the government of Antigua and Barbuda to serve on the Board of Directors of LIAT Ltd., an airline based in Antigua which does not fly to the United States. LIAT is owned by several governments in the Caribbean, including the government of Trinidad and Tobago, which controls 27% of the stock of British West Indian Airways (BWIA). BWIA flies in and out of Miami International Airport. You indicate that your purpose on the LIAT Board is to represent the interest of Antigua and Barbuda, not the interests of Trinidad and Tobago or BWIA. Your position with the Aviation Department is as the Assistant Aviation Director for Business Retention and Development. You wish to know whether a conflict of interest is created by virtue of your County employment if you accept a seat on the LIAT board.

Based on the fact that LIAT has no business activity in the United States, you will not be a position to take action as a County employee to the benefit or the detriment of LIAT. Therefore, no conflict of interest exists under the ethics code that would preclude you from sitting on the LIAT board. If in the future LIAT decides it wishes to enter the United States market by flying in and out of Miami International Airport, then we may need to revisit your relationship with LIAT. Finally, I see no reason why BWIA's activities at Miami International Airport would impact your ability to ethical discharge your duties as a County employee once you begin serving on the board of LIAT.

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

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
(305) 350-0613

12/12/2006

# Memorandum



**Date:** November 2, 2006

**To:** Mr. Robert Meyers  
The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
19W Flagler Suite 209  
Miami, Florida 33130

**From:** Miguel Southwell  
Assistant Aviation Director for Business Retention & Development

**Subject:** Invitation to participate in the Board of Directors of LIAT Ltd., The Caribbean Airline

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I received a request from the Government of Antigua & Barbuda to participate in the Board of Directors of LIAT Ltd., The Caribbean Airline. LIAT is based in Antigua, West Indies, and does not fly to the United States. It is my desire to accept and therefore, request your opinion.

LIAT has been in existence since 1956 and does not serve USA. It is 30% owned by Antigua & Barbuda Government where I was born and worked for, when I finished High School. LIAT is also owned by several governments in the Caribbean including Barbados, St. Vincent, The Grenadines, St. Lucia, and the government of Trinidad & Tobago which controls 27% of the stock through its flight carrier British West Indian Airways (BWIA). BWIA does fly to Miami International Airport (MIA) but my interest would be that to represent the government of Antigua & Barbuda which has invited me to be one of their representatives in the Board of Directors. The other island shareholders including Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago (BWIA) have their own representatives. Therefore, I would solely be representing the interests of Antigua & Barbuda.

Please give me your evaluation and recommendation

Attachments

Cc: José Abreu, Aviation Director