

**COMMISSION ON  
ETHICS AND PUBLIC  
TRUST**

INQ 06-84

# Memo

**To:** The Honorable Rebeca Sosa, County Commissioner  
District 6

**From:** Robert Meyers, Executive Director  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

**Date:** 6/2/2006

**Re:** Ethics Opinion

---

Thank you for your memorandum dated June 2, 2006. I understand from your correspondence that your daughter applied for a job in the City of West Miami in the Home Bound Meal Program, which is located at the senior center. As a County Commissioner representing District 6, the City of West Miami falls within your boundaries. You further state that you allocate funding to projects/programs in the City of West Miami. It isn't clear to me whether these allocations to West Miami are part of your discretionary budget or whether they are allocation decisions of the full Board of County Commissioners. Moreover, I assume you have the authority to allocate money to specific programs within the City of West Miami.

I see no problem with you participating in and voting on County Commission items that involve a general allocation to the City of West Miami. The reason for this is that you would not be earmarking funds for a particular program. Rather, the City Council or the City Manager would have to decide how to spend the County dollars that have been allocated. As far as funding the City of West Miami from your district budget, the same rationale would apply. Giving money to the City in general would be of no concern. The only problem I could envision is if you gave money to the Senior Center or the Home Bound Program. Similarly, if the Senior Center and/or the Home Bound Program in West Miami came to the County Commission directly, you should recuse yourself as long as your daughter is employed by this city program.

Therefore, the county's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance would not create a conflict for you if your daughter accepts the abovementioned position.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.



**MEMORANDUM**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, District 6**

---

**TO:** Robert A. Meyers  
Executive Director, Commission on Ethics

**DATE:** June 2, 2006

**FROM:** Rebeca Sosa  
District 6

**SUBJECT:** Employment within City of West Miami

---

My daughter Veronica Sosa recently responded to an advertisement for a job opening at the City of West Miami and went in for an interview. The position is at the senior center, and requires the in-take of applications for the Home Bound Meal Program the city offers to it's elder residents who qualify for the program.

I would like a legal opinion if there is any conflict for my daughter to be employed by the City of West Miami. As the District 6 County Commissioner, the City of West Miami is with-in my commission boundaries and I allocate funding towards city projects/programs.

My daughter will not accept this position until it is cleared by your office.

Thank you for your immediate response to this matter.

C.C. Robert Cuevas, First Assistant County Attorney  
Gerald Sanchez, County Attorney

**Meyers, Robert (COE)**

**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 02, 2006 4:14 PM  
**To:** Marante , Roly (DIST6)  
**Subject:** RE: Opinion request  
**Attachments:** 2006sosadaugther.inq.doc

Roly,

Attached is my response to Commissioner Sosa's request. If she has any questions, please have contact me before June 8<sup>th</sup>. I will on vacation from the 8<sup>th</sup> until the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks and have a great weekend too.

Robert

**From:** Marante , Roly (DIST6)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 02, 2006 10:58 AM  
**To:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Subject:** Opinion request

Robert,

Per my conversation with Gerald Sanchez and Bob Cuevas yesterday. On behalf of Commissioner Sosa, please see attached memorandum requesting a written opinion on the subject matter discussed. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Have a great weekend.

RM

Roly Marante  
Chief of Staff  
Commissioner Rebeca Sosa  
Miami-Dade County  
111 NW 1st Street, #220  
Miami, FL 33128

305 375-5696 / F. 305 372-6090 /Cell 786 295-1836