

**Meyers, Robert (COE)**

*BRQ*  
*04/3/05*

**To:** Owens Jr., Farrel J. (MDPD)  
**Subject:** RE: CRB Conflict of Interest

Mr. Owens,

Thank you for this information and I discussed these questions with our general counsel. Based on the mission of the Community Relations Board, particularly the Police Task Force subcommittee which you co-chair, and your responsibilities with the Police Department, there is no provision in the County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance that precludes you from serving on the County's Community Relations Board while at the same time working for the County as a police officer.

Your second question is whether you are on-duty when you are attending a CRB meeting. I find that you were not appointed to the Board because you work for the Miami-Dade County. In other words, you were not appointed to fill a slot reserved for Miami-Dade employees. Therefore, you are considered a volunteer when you are attending CRB meetings or functions and the Department would not be obligated to pay you during this time. However, I believe a strong case can be made for giving Administrative Leave when you are engaged in CRB business. This determination is one that your Department Director should make -- not the Ethics Commission.

If you have any additional questions or if you wish to discuss the above in greater detail, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Owens Jr., Farrel J. (MDPD)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 23, 2004 2:45 PM  
**To:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Cc:** 'farrelowens@yahoo.com'  
**Subject:** CRB Conflict of Interest

Mr. Meyers,

First, I would like to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to address this issue. I am a police officer with the Miami-Dade Police Department, Community Affairs Bureau. Approximately 6 months ago the CRB and the county commission appointed me to the Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board; and I have recently been elected as the co-chair of the Police Task Force sub-committee. There has been concerns expressed by my immediate supervisors that there is a perceived conflict of interest with my affiliation to this board and my position, although this board is not a steering or oversight committee of the police department. The role of the CRB/ Police Task Force Committee is to reduce community tension countywide that may be as a result of police actions. This may include the CRB orchestrating a roundtable forum to create dialogue between the said police department and concerned community personnel. The other issue is if I am allowed to attend the CRB meetings on-duty but not in representation of the police department but as a CRB member, with approval from the director? It is my position that my association with the CRB provides a grand opportunity to bridge the gap between the community and the police department. It's imperative that the police department is proactive in its approach to community awareness and this relationship has proven to be successful and supported by the Director and county manager despite the internal bureau perceptions. I appreciate your response in this matter and I would ask that your response be reduced to writing and email/ delivered to: Miami-Dade Police Department, Community Affairs Bureau/ Officer Farrel Owens 9105 NW 25 St Miami, FL 33172. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to call me at (786) 486-7409. Thanks again for your promptness and attention.

Farrell Owens