

INC 00-01

**COMMISSION ON
ETHICS AND PUBLIC
TRUST**

Memo

To: File
From: Robert Meyers, Executive Director
Date: 01/26/00
Re: Inquiry from Parks Department

I spoke to Frank Faragalli about the attached memo, indicating to him that the request would have the come directly from the affected in order for our office to treat it like a request for an opinion. Faragalli stated the Department had decided it would not be seeking an opinion, as it had found another way to address this situation.

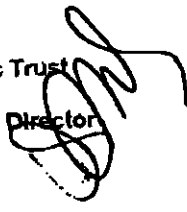
Memorandum

To: Robert Myers, Executive Director
 Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

From: Vivian Donnell Rodriguez, Interim Director
 Park and Recreation Department

Date: January 4, 2000

Re: Request for Opinion on Employee Involved with Organization Receiving County Funds



The County Manager's Office has raised the question of a possible conflict of interest for one of our employees because of her department job responsibilities with an organization developed under the auspices of the Park's Department, and a funding allocation the organization received from the Board of County Commissioners. Staff advised me that you consulted the Ethics Commission attorney and the opinion is that the Commission should review this matter. Following is the information your office requested.

Ms. Robin Beamon, a Park and Recreation Department employee, is the coordinator for the Department Sports Development Track and Field Program, including the Metro-Dade Track Club. The Department began the Metro-Dade Track Club a number of years ago as a vehicle to not only promote track and field, but also to give parents and their children the opportunity to be involved in a competitive track and field organization. The track club is affiliated with the USA Track and Field/Florida Association, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Ms. Beamon's duties include being the liaison with the Metro-Dade Track Club. A Parent's Booster Club also supports the Metro-Dade Track Club.

The Booster Club contacted Commissioner Carey-Shuler to request funding for the purchase of uniforms and trip expenses related to the Metro-Dade Track Club's competing in the 1999 USA Track and Field Junior Olympics. On July 27, 1999, the Board of County Commissioners approved \$10,000 from the Urban Revitalization Task Force Funds to be allocated to the Metro-Dade Track Club for the purpose stated. Subsequently the Office of Management and Budget assigned the allocation to the Park and Recreation Department for distribution. The Department followed its normal procedure for a standard Community Based Organization (CBO) grant agreement, which required County Attorney review, and County Manager approval.

To avoid any direct involvement with the distribution of these funds to the Metro-Dade Track Club, Ms. Beamon asked the USA Track and Field/Florida Association, Inc. to serve as the CBO grantee to distribute the funds. In the course of completing the required grant agreement and affidavits, Ms. Beamon served as one of the witnesses to the signature of the USA Track and Field Association President. When the County Manager's Office reviewed the agreement and saw her signature as witness, the question of the propriety of her involvement was raised.

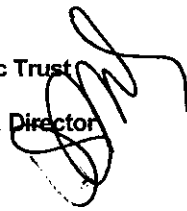
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COMMISSION ON ETHICS
AND PUBLIC TRUST

January 4, 2000

Please contact Pat Eraso, CBO Grants Coordinator at (305) 755-7949 if you have any questions. Also, please keep my office informed through my assistant Frank Faragalli at (305) 755-7950 when the Commission schedules this issue for review. Thank you.

Cc: Stephen Spratt, Senior Assistant to the County Manager
Viviana Prieto, P&R Assistant Director
Jack Kardys, P&R, Acting Assistant Director
Frank Faragalli, P&R, Assistant to the Director
Pat Eraso, P&R
Robin Beamon, P&R

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