

**Meyers, Robert (COE)**

INQ 06-34

**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2001 3:48 PM  
**To:** Stephens, Eric (Park & Rec)  
**Subject:** RE: job applicant

Eric,

Thank you for your e-mail. As I see it, there would be no legal prohibition against hiring this individual because he/she would not be considered a County employee. However, there may be items that come before the individual's Community Council that would create a conflict. If this were the case, this person would have to recuse himself/herself from voting on these matters. It's impossible for me to predict how often this would happen, but I suspect it shouldn't occur that frequently. Finally, there is always the concern about the perception that could be generated as a result of hiring this person, but our Code of Ethics does not address the appearance of impropriety. Therefore, it becomes a judgment call for the public official/employee who is contemplating certain behavior.

If you want formal consideration by the Ethics Commission, I would be happy to put it on the agenda. If not, I hope my "unofficial" opinion helps.

Robert Meyers

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

**From:** Stephens, Eric (Park & Rec)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2001 2:44 PM  
**To:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Subject:** job applicant

Hi,  
As I mentioned earlier today, the zoo received a resume for our Director of Marketing position from an elected official. This person is a Community Councilman. The job is officially a job with the Zoological Society of Florida. This non-profit manages the zoo's marketing and is "primarily responsible" for this task through the operating agreement between the ZSF and the county.  
Does this applicant cause any concern to the Commission on Ethics?  
Thank YOU,  
Eric Stephens  
Zoo Director