

Meyers, Robert (COE)

INg 04-72

From: Thompson, Audie (GSA)
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2004 12:09 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: RE: Re: Outside Employment e-mail

Thank you for your response. It is a bit disconcerting that I may have been in violation of Section 2-11.1(m) without even realizing it. I felt that since I am a volunteer and not receiving any financial benefits I would be exempt. Now I know, so I will desist from any future activities of this nature. With regards to the permit filing, I would like you to take the issue before the Ethics Commission, not only for myself, but for numerous other County employees who volunteer with community-based organizations. If there is even a perception of unethical activity, I do not wish to continue. Again, thank you for your efforts.

Audie Thompson
GSA Materials Management

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

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2004 11:53 AM
To: Thompson, Audie (GSA)
Subject: RE: Re: Outside Employment e-mail

Sorry I haven't responded sooner, but I wanted to run this by our general counsel before answering your questions. Based upon the facts you have given me, I understand that you sit on the board of directors of the West Kendall Optimist, a community-based organization. You serve the organization as a volunteer, but you have occasionally appeared before boards to promote the Club's positions. Furthermore, you have filed building permits on behalf of the Club. Finally, you are a full-time County employee.

Section 2-11.1(m) prohibits County employees from appearing before County boards and agencies on behalf of third parties. Therefore, if you appear before County boards to promote the positions of the West Kendall Optimist Club, then you would be in violation of the ordinance. If you appear before non-County boards, then this Code section does not apply. As far as filing permits is concerned, I would prefer to present this question to the Ethics Commission at our next meeting. At our June meeting, the Ethics Commission found that filing building permits for private clients represents an "appearance" under the Code. However, this arose in the context of County employees who are hired as paid consultants by individuals or firms. In your case, you do not profit from the filing of these permits. Hence, the Ethics Commission might arrive at a different result.

Please let me know how you wish to proceed with respect to the question of filing permits.

Thank you,

Robert Meyers

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

From: Thompson, Audie (GSA)
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2004 10:07 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: McGriff, Bernard (GSA)
Subject: Re: Outside Employment e-mail

Mr. Meyers,

I am on the board of directors of a not-for-profit community-based organization (CBO), West Kendall Optimist. I am not an employee of WKO and do not receive any fees for my activities with the club; I am a volunteer. However, in my capacity I do have occasion to appear before boards to promote the club's positions. I have filed building permits for construction projects funded through the CBO Grants Program administered through Miami-Dade Park and Recreation. My actions before the County have benefited WKO in the past. I just wish to make sure that these activities are acceptable since it is not a "client" relationship. Thank you.

Audie Thompson
GSA Materials Management
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