

**COMMISSION ON ETHICS
ADVISORY OPINION
RQO-98-09**

BACKGROUND: Dale Poster-Ellis, Acting Director of Private Rental Housing for the County Housing Agency requested our opinion on whether there is a conflict of interest between her employment with the Miami-Dade Housing Agency and her volunteer work with the Junior League of Miami.

NARRATIVE: Ellis serves as Chairperson of Inn Transition South, a committee of the Junior League which is developing a transitional housing project. The property for the transitional housing is former public housing property owned by Miami-Dade County. The South Miami Heights Community Development Corporation is in charge of the development. Ellis' Junior League responsibilities do not overlap with her job responsibilities and all Junior League work is performed outside business hours.

ARGUMENT: The Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance does not prohibit Ellis' service as Chairperson of the Inn Transition South committee of the Junior League as long as it does not conflict with her County employment. Ellis may participate even if the organization receives county funds. However, Ellis should not participate in activities relating to procurement of county funds.

CONCLUSION: Ellis' service as chairperson of the Inn Transition South committee of the Junior League is not prohibited by the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance.