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STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL

September 19, 2000

Nelson Oramas  
Aviation Department  
P.O. Box 592075  
Miami, FL 33159

RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 00-122<sup>123</sup>

Dear Mr. Oramas:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on September 12, 2000 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your memorandum.

You requested an opinion regarding the participation of an airline in the Aviation Department's observance of "Take Your Daughters to Work" and "Take Your Sons To Work" Day.

In your memo, you advised the Commission that the Aviation Department has taken part in the national observance of "Take Your Daughters to Work Day" and "Take Your Sons to Work Day" for the past five years. As part of the observance, an airline takes the group of children on a tour of an airplane, a visit to a cockpit and a discussion of careers in aviation with a short plane trip around the area. The cost of the airline's participation is borne by the company. The Department is concerned about the possible violation of any ethical guidelines.

The Commission found that the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance permits the Aviation Department to ask airlines to participate in their observance of "Take

Your Daughters To Work Day" and "Take Your Sons to Work Day". Section 2-11.1

(e) (2) (e) provides that "Gifts solicited by county employees or departmental personnel on behalf of the county for use solely by the County in conducting its official business" are exempted from the definition of gifts. Therefore, although the items received from the airlines have a monetary value and are received without consideration, they are not gifts under the ordinance. Accordingly, the Aviation Department may request the participation of airlines in the activity and airlines may donate the costs of this event to the airport.

This opinion construes the Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance only and is not applicable to any conflict under state law. Please contact the State of Florida Commission on Ethics if you have any questions regarding possible conflicts under state law.

If you have any questions regarding this opinion, please call the undersigned at (305) 579-2594 or Ardyth Walker, Staff General Counsel at (305) 579-2653.

Sincerely Yours,



ROBERT MEYERS  
Executive Director