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September 19, 2000

Trenae Floyd
P.O. Box 893502
Miami, Florida 33269

RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 00-136

Dear Ms. Floyd:

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 letter.

You requested an opinion regarding your family's company's ability to contract with a county contractor.


In your letter, you advised the Commission that your family owns Von Enterprises International. Von Enterprises is the parent company of JournalofColor.com which is a website for people of color. The company would like to solicit advertising from companies that do business with the county.

The Commission found that The Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance permits Von Enterprises to solicit advertising from firms that do business with the county. The Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance only prohibits county employees and their families from contracting with the county through a firm in which they have a controlling financial interest. The code does not prohibit employees from contracting with county vendors. Therefore, your family may solicit advertising from firms that do business with the county.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Meyers", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

ROBERT MEYERS
Executive Director