

Sincerely Yours,

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

ROBERT MEYERS  
Executive Director

prohibit non-profit organizations in which employees participate from seeking county funds to provide services.

However, you may not appear before County boards or agencies and seek funding for the organization. Section 2-11.1 (m)(1) prohibits employees from appearing before the any county board or agency and seeking a benefit for a third party. Therefore, you may not appear before any board regarding the organization's application for funding.

Moreover, the Commission found that the Coalition's grant applications should be made under the name of the vice-chair or another responsible member of the organization to prevent any possible conflicts created by your employment with the Community Action Agency.

Therefore, the Haitian-American Grassroots Coalition may apply for county grants. However, you may not appear before any county board or the county commission regarding the funding requests and the grant applications should be made under the name of the vice-chair or another responsible member of the organization.

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.



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ADVOCATE

**ARDYTH WALKER**  
STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL

April 18, 2001

Jean-Robert Lafortune  
Chairman  
Haitian-American Grassroots Foundation  
P.O. Box 381416  
Miami, FL 33238

**RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 01-32**

Dear Mr. Lafortune:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on April 4, 2001 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an opinion regarding any conflict between your county employment and your ability to apply for county funding for a non-profit organization.

In your letter, you advised the Commission that you work for the Community Action Agency and also serve as Chairman of the Haitian-American Grassroots Coalition. The Haitian American Grassroots Coalition is an advocacy group for Haitian immigrants. The Coalition would like to apply for grants issued by the Department of Human Services for Community Based organizations.

The Commission found The Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance does not prohibit you from seeking county funds for a non-profit organization. The Code only prohibits employees from contracting with their department to provide services through a company in which they have a controlling financial interest. The Code does not