

The Commission found that the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance permits you to participate in community zoning activities. However, you may not serve as a representative for a third party or disclose confidential information. Section 2-11.1 (m) (1) provides that no employee shall appear before any County board or agency and make a presentation on behalf of a third party with respect to any license, contract, certificate, ruling, decision, opinion, rate schedule, franchise or other benefit sought by the third person. Moreover, Section 2-11.1(h) provides that no employee shall accept employment or engage in business or professional activity which he or she might reasonably expect would require or induce him to disclose confidential information garnered or gained through his or her official position with the County. As long as your activities are conducted on your own behalf, the Conflict of Ordinance permits you to continue your community zoning activities. However, you should take care that you do not disclose confidential information.

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 Ardyth Walker, Staff General Counsel at (305) 350-0616 or the undersigned at (305) 579-2594.

Sincerely Yours,



ROBERT MEYERS

Executive Director



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STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL

October 15, 2001

Lana W. Floyd
21785 S.W. 111 Avenue
Goulds, FL 33170

RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 01-81

Dear Ms. Floyd:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on October 11, 2001 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an opinion regarding any conflict between your work in the Zoning Department and your community activities.

In your letter, you advised the Commission that you work as a secretary in the Zoning Evaluation Section of the Department of Planning and Zoning. Among your responsibilities is preparing the recommendations of department staff to the Board of County Commissioners and Community Councils. As an employee in the department, you are privy to information regarding the issues involved in staff decisions that are not available to the general public.

You are also active in the Goulds Incorporation Drive. You frequently appear at community zoning meetings to present your viewpoint. You have also requested meetings with department staff, as an affected resident, to discuss upcoming issues that affect your community.