

The Aviation Department is responsible for construction of an automated people mover system that will connect Miami International Airport and the Rental Car Facility. SZA has been approached to serve as part of a team that will do engineering work on the people mover project.

The Commission found that SZA may only work as a subconsultant on the Automated People Mover project if it relinquishes any MIC management responsibilities connected to the project. Currently, SZA has many potential conflicts of interest including the potential for disclosure of confidential information acquired through its official position and impairment of the firm's independent judgment in either the design or management capacity. Therefore, the firm should not serve as both a member of the engineering team and have MIC management responsibilities related to the Aviation Department's role in the project.

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



December 12, 2001

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Frank Zenali
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RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 01-88

Dear Mr. Zenali:

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

You requested an opinion regarding any conflict between the firm's work as part of the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC) and as a subconsultant on an engineering team that will design the Automated People Mover (APM).

In your letter, you advised the Commission that SZA is currently serving on the management team for the MIC. The MIC is a project of the Florida Department of Transportation. The program will link various forms of transportation, including a rental car facility, rail stations and passenger parking in the area of Miami International Airport. As a member of the management team, SZA is responsible for the roadway portion of the project. The roadway project will make certain improvements along Lejeune Road and other major thoroughfares surrounding the airport. SZA also serves as the management group's primary liaison with the Aviation Department and makes recommendations regarding the scope of work.