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December 19, 2002

Tametria Harris
Procurement Manager
Department of Procurement Management
111 N.W. First Street
13th Floor
Miami, FL 33128

RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 02-158

Dear Mrs. Harris:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on December 18, 2002 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an opinion regarding your ability to seek county funds for a non-profit agency.

In your letter, you advised the Commission that you are a board member for a non-profit organization for Youth and Elderly Services in Goulds. The group has sought community based organization funding from the Office of Community and Economic Development.

The Commission found the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance permits the non-profit organization to seek county funding. However, you are prohibited from appearing before the Board of County Commissioners and seeking funding. 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. However, the organization may seek and receive funding for its programs.

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) 350-0616.

Sincerely Yours,

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

ROBERT MEYERS
Executive Director