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December 6, 2005

Edna Mae Cook
1321 NW 88 St.
Miami, FL 33147

Via First Class Mail and Fax at 305 691-8979

Re: RQO 05-133 Section 8 Housing Landlord

Dear Ms. Cook:

I considered your request for an opinion regarding your ability to contract with the County to provide Section 8 housing. Based on the facts stated in your email of December 5, 2005, I am rendering my judgment on this matter.

In your letter you advised the Ethics Commission that your son, Trunell N. Cook, works for the Water and Sewer Department as a Customer Service Representative. You would like to contract with the Miami-Dade Housing Agency to provide Section 8 housing. Section 8 is a federally funded program that subsidizes landlords who rent to low-income tenants.

You may contract with the Miami-Dade Housing Agency to provide Section 8 housing. Section 2-11.1 (c) of the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance provides that—

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary herein, subsection (c) and (d) shall not be construed to prevent any employee...from entering into any contract, individually or through a firm, corporation, partnership or business entity in which the employee or any member of his or her immediate family has a controlling financial interest, with Miami-Dade County or any person or agency acting for Miami-Dade County as long as 1) entering into the contract would not interfere with the full and faithful discharge by the employee of his or her duties to the County, 2) the employee has not participated in determining the subject contract awards or awarding the contract, and 3) the

employee's job responsibilities and job description will not require him or her to be involved with the contract in any way, including but not limited to its enforcement, oversight, administration, amendment, extension, termination or forbearance.

Since your son's job responsibilities with the Water and Sewer Department would not require his involvement in any aspect of the contract, you may accept Section 8 housing vouchers provide by the Miami-Dade County Housing Agency.

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 me at (305) 579-2594.

Sincerely yours,



ROBERT MEYERS
Executive Director