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February 25, 2005

Alexis Morris
2433 SW 106 Avenue
Miramar, FL 33025

RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 05-22

Dear Mrs. Morris:

I considered your request for an advisory opinion and I am rendering my opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an opinion regarding your ability to contract with the County to provide Section 8 housing.

In your letter you advised the Ethics Commission that your husband, Horace Morris, Jr., works as a Pre-Trial Officer with the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department. You and your husband would like to contract with the Miami-Dade Housing Agency to provide Section 8 housing. Section 8 is a federally-funded program which subsidizes landlords who rent to low-income tenants.

You and your husband may contract with the Miami-Dade Housing Agency to provide Section 8 housing. Section 2-11.1 (c) 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 husband's job responsibilities with the Corrections Department not require his involvement in any aspect of the contract, you both may contract with the Miami-Dade County Housing Agency to provide Section 8 housing.

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.

Sincerely Yours,

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

ROBERT MEYERS
Executive Director