

Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)

From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 10:35 AM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Marie Woodson, Manager, WASD (conflicts of interest) INQ 18-13

INQ 18-13 Woodson

From: Turay, Radia (COE)
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 4:03 PM
To: Woodson, Marie (WASD) <Marie.Woodson@miamidade.gov>
Cc: Centorino, Joseph (COE) <Joseph.Centorino@miamidade.gov>
Subject: INQ 18-13, Marie Woodson, Manager, WASD

Dear Ms. Woodson,

You have inquired whether a conflict of interest exists where a non-profit organization, Haitian Women of Miami, for which you serve as Chair of its Board of Directors, is seeking to do business with Miami-Dade County.

Background

- You are employed as a Manager at Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department (WASD).
- In your role as Manager, you oversee the handling of adjustments when there are discrepancies with the amount of water used and the amount charged; respond to complaints; and handle liens imposed on properties as a result of water usage and subsequent administrative hearings.
- You serve as Chair of the Board of Directors of Haitian Women of Miami (FANM), a non-profit organization.
- FANM's mission is to empower Haitian women and their families socially, politically, and facilitate their adjustments to South Florida.
- FANM is in the process of renewing their vendor registration with the County.
- You are seeking this opinion because of your decision-making role with the organization.
- You have no financial interest or ownership interest in FANM.
- You are not paid for you service as Chair of the Board of FANM.
- FANM is not seeking to contract with the WASD.
- In your County position, you will not award, oversee, or administer any grant or contract that would be awarded to FANM by the County.

Analysis

In general, there are no ethics conflicts regarding your County employment and your board service at FANM. However, several sections of the County Ethics Code should be addressed:

- **Sec. 2.11.1(m)(2)** prohibits you from appearing before any County board or agency or meeting with staff or elected officials to make a presentation or to seek a benefit (funding/grant/contract) on behalf of the nonprofit organization;
- **Sec. 2.11.1(h)** prohibits you from disclosing confidential information acquired by reason of your official County position;
- **Sec. 2.11.1(g)** prohibits you from using your County position to secure special privileges or exemptions for yourself or FMBC.

We recommend that, in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety, you refrain from any involvement regarding your County department and FANM. Although you may not appear before any County board or agency to seek any benefit on behalf of FANM, *it is also advisable*, in your role as Chair of the Board of Directors of FANM, to recuse yourself from voting or participating in FANM discussions and/or votes relating to County applications for funding, County contracts or any other FANM initiative involving the County.

FANM may accept a grant from the County or enter into contracts with the County *as long as* you have not attempted to influence an official decision to benefit the non-profit organization in any way. Please be advised that the County Ethics Commission has interpreted this prohibition very expansively to include any communications, in any form, intended to influence an individual within the County to take an official action. See INQ 16-22, INQ 12-13, INQ 11-01, INQ 10-201.

This opinion is based on the facts presented. If any of these facts change, please contact us.

Sincerely,

RADIA TURAY

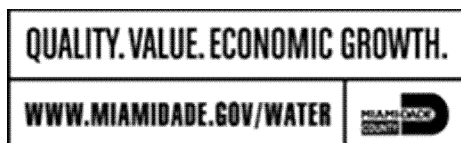
Staff Attorney
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
19 W. Flagler Street, Suite 820
Miami, FL 33130
Tel: (305) 350-0601
Fax: (305) 579-0273
Ethics.miamidade.gov

From: Woodson, Marie (WASD)
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 3:31 PM
To: Turay, Radia (COE) <Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov>
Subject: RE: Opinion request

Good afternoon Ms. Turay,
Please see my below responses in red.
Thanks

Marie P. Woodson, Manager
Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department
3071 SW 38th Avenue,
Miami, Florida 33146
Phone: 786-552-8729
womp@miamidade.gov

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From: Turay, Radia (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 2:52 PM

To: Woodson, Marie (WASD) <Marie.Woodson@miamidade.gov>

Subject: RE: Opinion request

Hello Ms. Woodson,

My name is Radia Turay. I am a staff attorney at the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust. I was assigned to assist you with your request. In order to better assist you, please answer the questions below:

- 1) Are you compensated for your service as the Chair of FANM? **NO**
- 2) Do you have any financial or ownership interest in FANM? **NO**
- 3) Will you award, oversee, or administer the grant that is being awarded to FANW in your County position? **NO**
- 4) Will the department that you work for award, oversee, or administer the grant that is being awarded to FANW?
NO

Thanks,

Radia.

Thank you and have a great evening!

From: Woodson, Marie (WASD)

Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 11:14 AM

To: Ethics (COE) <ethics@miamidade.gov>

Subject: Opinion request

Good morning,

My name is Marie Woodson and I currently chair the Board of the Haitian Women of Miami (FANM), a non-profit organization serving the less fortunate in Miami-Dade . I am a Manager at the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department, overseeing some areas handling adjustments when there are discrepancies with the amount of water used vs the amount charged, responding to complaints or issues pertaining to water and sewer, as well liens imposed on properties due amount owed for water usage and administrative hearings as a result of disputes with water and sewer bills. There are no correlation between my position as a Volunteer Chair for the organization and the one I hold at Water and Sewer. However, FANM is in the process of renewing their vendor registration with the County and because of my decision-making role with the organization, I must request an opinion from the Ethics Commission.

Please advise.

Thanks

Marie Woodson

Marie P. Woodson, Manager
Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department
3071 SW 38th Avenue,
Miami, Florida 33146
Phone: 786-552-8729
womp@miamidade.gov

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