

## Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)

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**From:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 30, 2018 3:20 PM  
**To:** Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)  
**Subject:** Paul Imbrone - Miami-Dade Homeless Trust Board Approval - RentConnect- Ethics Opinion (Limitations on Contracting with the County), INQ 18-25  
**Attachments:** IMBRONE 2.pdf; Imbrone Letter.pdf

[INQ 18-25 Imbrone](#)

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**From:** Perez, Martha D. (COE)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 30, 2018 2:34 PM  
**To:** paul.imbrone@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Centorino, Joseph (COE) <Joseph.Centorino@miamidade.gov>; Murawski, Michael P. (COE) <Michael.Murawski@miamidade.gov>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>; Turay, Radia (COE) <Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov>; Mallette, Victoria (HT) <victoria.mallette@miamidade.gov>; Summerset-Williams, Shannon (CAO) <Shannon.Summerset@miamidade.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Paul Imbrone - Miami-Dade Homeless Trust Board Approval - RentConnect- Ethics Opinion (Limitations on Contracting with the County), INQ 18-25

Dear Mr. Imbrone,

Attached is the Limitations on Doing Business with the County Ethics Opinion letter. Please note that it indicates, *inter alia*, that PHI and Associates (aka PHI Ventures LLC) may enter into contracts with Miami-Dade County but not with the Homeless Trust.

You may print this letter and submit it to the Procurement Department. I will be sending you the original letter via regular mail.

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

**Martha D. Perez**  
Staff Attorney  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST  
19 West Flagler St. Suite 820  
Miami, FL 33130  
(305)350-0656  
[PEREZMD@miamidade.gov](mailto:PEREZMD@miamidade.gov)

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**From:** Perez, Martha D. (COE)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2018 7:37 AM  
**To:** Perez, Martha D. (COE) <[Martha.Perez2@miamidade.gov](mailto:Martha.Perez2@miamidade.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Paul Imbrone - Miami-Dade Homeless Trust Board Approval - RentConnect

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**From:** Perez, Martha D. (COE)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2018 3:13 PM  
**To:** 'paul.imbrone@gmail.com' <[paul.imbrone@gmail.com](mailto:paul.imbrone@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Olano, Margarita (HT) <[OLAN1@miamidade.gov](mailto:OLAN1@miamidade.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Paul Imbrone - Miami-Dade Homeless Trust Board Approval - RentConnect

Good afternoon Mr. Imbrone,

Pursuant to Section 2-11.1(c) (3) of the County Ethics Code, you must seek an ethics opinion prior to contracting with the County. Please complete and submit the attached form to our office. Also, it would be appreciated if you can attach the agreement. You can submit to my attention.

Thank you.

**Martha D. Perez**  
Staff Attorney  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST  
19 West Flagler St. Suite 820  
Miami, FL 33130  
(305)350-0656  
[PEREZMD@miamidade.gov](mailto:PEREZMD@miamidade.gov)

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**From:** Centorino, Joseph (COE)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2018 2:37 PM  
**To:** Perez, Martha D. (COE) <[Martha.Perez2@miamidade.gov](mailto:Martha.Perez2@miamidade.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Paul Imbrone - Miami-Dade Homeless Trust Board Approval - RentConnect

Please handle this request.

**From:** P I [<mailto:paul.imbrone@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2018 2:26 PM  
**To:** Centorino, Joseph (COE) <[Joseph.Centorino@miamidade.gov](mailto:Joseph.Centorino@miamidade.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mallette, Victoria (HT) <[victoria.mallette@miamidade.gov](mailto:victoria.mallette@miamidade.gov)>; Paul Imbrone <[paul.imbrone@gmail.com](mailto:paul.imbrone@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Paul Imbrone - Miami-Dade Homeless Trust Board Approval - RentConnect

Dear Director Centorino,

**Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust**

19 West Flagler, Suite 820  
Miami, Florida 33130

Attention: Joseph M. Centorino, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Centorino,

On December 21, 2017, at a Joint Executive/Finance Committee Meeting of the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust, the Committee voted to approve PHI and Associates (Paul Imbrone) as Lead Coordinator for the newly established RentConnect Program. On January 5, 2018, the full Board then concurred with the Joint Executive/Finance Committee and unanimously approved entering into a Professional Services Agreement between PHI and Associates and Miami-Dade County, through the Homeless Trust.

I am writing to seek clarification and approval to remain a member of the Board and Executive Committee of the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust after being approved to serve as the RentConnect Lead Coordinator. This PSA is funded through local Food & Beverage Tax funds, Section 212.0306, Florida Statutes, which do not have a conflict of interest provision.

My position on the Homeless Trust board has been as a designee of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce where I represented Macy's, Inc. in my role as Vice President, Government and Public Affairs. I retired from Macy's on March 31, 2017, subsequently ending my official chamber relationship. I have been in contact with chamber management and I will be rejoining the chamber under my personal business entity. It is the opinion of chamber management that considering my long history with the chamber, they would continue to support my designation under the chamber to the Homeless Trust Board.

Following the approvals of my position as Lead Coordinator for RentConnect, the question was raised as to whether a conflict might exist for me to remain on the Homeless Trust Board. Ordinance 94-66 creating the Homeless Trust does dictate that service providers and a wide range of other business and community leaders serve on the Board. All meetings of the Board of Trustees are held and noticed in accordance with Miami-Dade County and Florida open government laws, with meetings publically noticed. Trust By-Laws also state, "Any member of the Trust who announces a conflict of interest on a particular matter and a decision to refrain from voting or otherwise participating in the proceeding related to that matter shall leave the room in which the meeting is being held until the consideration of that matter is concluded." I have not and would not vote on any actions that involve my PSA, or award of this PSA to any other entity, but want to ensure that serving on the Board is not a general conflict.

I am available to discuss this request further at your convenience. I may be reached at 305-793-8962.

Sincerely,

Paul Imbrone

PHI and Associates

**COMMISSIONERS**

Judge Lawrence Schwartz, CHAIRMAN  
H. Jeffrey Cutler, Esq., VICE CHAIR  
Nelson Bellido, Esq.  
Dr. Judith Bernier  
Marcia Narine, Esq.



**EXECUTIVE STAFF**

Joseph M. Centorino  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
GENERAL COUNSEL  
Michael P. Murawski  
ADVOCATE

Via First Class Mail  
and email at: paul.imbrone@gmail.com

January 30, 2018

Paul Imbrone  
PAUL HYNEK IMBRONE and Associates  
250 E. Royal Palm Rd., #3C  
Boca Raton, FL 33432

*Please submit this letter to  
the Procurement  
Department. The Ethics  
Commission does not submit  
this letter on your behalf*

Re: INQ 18-25, Limitations on Doing Business with the County

Dear Mr. Imbrone:

You serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the Homeless Trust and the Homeless Trust Board. The Homeless Trust is a County agency which serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) with respect to all issues affecting or relating to the homeless. The Trust has instituted *RentConnect* as part of its continuum of care. *RentConnect* is a team of housing professionals who connect landlords with tenants in an effort to ensure homeless individuals and families have a home.<sup>1</sup>

This opinion is based on the following facts and legal analysis:

On January 22, 2018, you asked about limitations in doing business with the County through your privately owned company, PAUL HYNEK IMBRONE and Associates (aka PHI Ventures LLC), which is a consulting firm.

You advised that the Homeless Trust Executive Committee, of which you are a member, voted on December 21, 2017, to approve your company as Lead Coordinator for the *RentConnect* Program. Thereafter on January 5, 2018, the Board approved entering into a Professional

<sup>1</sup> Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust website.

Services Agreement between your company and the County, through the Homeless Trust. You also mentioned that the Agreement is funded through local food & beverage tax funds.

Your board service does not preclude you from contracting with the County as long as the Homeless Trust does not have oversight over the contract (professional services agreement).

The County Ethics Code at Section 2-11.1(c)(3) prohibits a County board member from entering into a contract with the County if the board on which he serves would oversee the contract unless a waiver is obtained in accordance with Sections 2-11.1(c)(4) and 2-11.1(c)(6) of the County Ethics Code<sup>2</sup>.


Further, Section 2-11.1(m)(2) prohibits a County board member from making presentations or seeking any benefits for himself or others from the board on which he serves. Section 2-11.1(v) is also relevant. It prohibits a County board member from voting on a matter if he would be directly affected by the vote and he has an enumerated relationship with the entity before the board.

Based on the facts you have presented, you would have a prohibited conflict of interest because the Homeless Trust oversees, administers and enforces the contract your firm would be entering into with the County. See INQ 12-89.<sup>3</sup>

This opinion construes the Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest Ordinance only and is not applicable to any conflict under state law. Inquiries regarding possible conflicts under state law should be directed to the Florida Commission on Ethics.

If any of the facts you have presented change or if you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at 305 350-0656.

Sincerely,

  
Martha D. Perez  
Staff Attorney

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<sup>2</sup> A board member may request a waiver from the BCC within 10 days of the Ethics Commission opinion by filing a notice of appeal to the Ethics Commission. The BCC may waive the requirements for a particular transaction by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the BCC, after a public hearing, and upon making a finding pursuant to Section 2-11.1(c)(6) of the County Ethics Code.

<sup>3</sup> In INQ 12-89, Ethics Commission staff opined that the spouse of a Homeless Trust board member may not contract with any agency or department of Miami-Dade County which is subject to the regulation, oversight, management, policy-setting or quasi-judicial authority of the Homeless Trust. *Section 2-11.1(c)(3), Miami-Dade County Code*

## County Board Members Wishing to Register as County Vendors

Please submit the following information by mail, fax, or email to-

Gilma Diaz-Greco, Staff Attorney  
The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
19 West Flagler Street, Suite 820  
Miami, FL 33130

Phone: (305) 350-0638  
Fax: (305) 579-0273  
Email: [gdiazgr@miamidade.gov](mailto:gdiazgr@miamidade.gov)

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Board Member's Name Paul Imbrone  
Board Name Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust  
Board Member Title Member - Executive Committee  
Business Name/Type of Business PAUL HYNEK IMBRONE and Associates (PHI and Associates) - Consulting  
Description of Business Consulting  
Board Member's Mailing Address and zip code 250 East Royal Palm Road, Boca Raton, Florida, 33432  
Board Member's email paul.imbrone@gmail.com

Do you have a **controlling financial interest** (10% or more) in a corporation, firm or entity that is seeking to contract with the County?

Yes YES No \_\_\_\_\_

If not-  
Are you or any of your immediate family members **employed** by a County Vendor?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Name of County Vendor \_\_\_\_\_

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The Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest & Code of Ethics at Secs. 2-11.1 (c)(3) and (d) allows County Board Members who have a **controlling financial interest (10% or more)** in a corporation firm or entity to contract with the County in certain circumstances and if the following criteria are met. *See also* Secs. 2-11.1 (m)(2),(v).

Please confirm that you will meet all of these criteria:

1. I will not contract with any County agency or department subject to the regulation, oversight, management, policy-setting, or quasi-judicial authority of the board of which I am a member. *See* 2-11.1(c)(3) and (d).
2. I will not make a presentation or seek any benefits for myself or others from the board on which I serve. *See* 2-11.1(m)(2).
3. I will not vote on any matter if I will be directly affected by the vote and I have one of the enumerated relationships in Sec. 2-11.1(v) with the firm, corporation, or entity before the board.

I have read these requirements and pledge to abide by them.

Paul Imbrone

Signature

January 24, 2018

Date