



MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST

701 NORTHWEST 1ST COURT · 8TH FLOOR · MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136

Phone: (305) 579-2594 · Facsimile: (305) 579-0273

Website: ethics.miamidade.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Judith Bernier, Chair
Wifredo Gort, Vice Chair
Nelson C. Bellido, Esq., Commissioner
Charlton C. Copeland, Esq., Commissioner
Judge Lawrence A. Schwartz, Commissioner

FROM: Etta Akoni, Staff Attorney
Commission on Ethics

SUBJECT: **INQ Summaries** (January 1, 2022 to January 31, 2022)

DATE: February 1, 2022

CC: COE Legal Staff

INQs are informal ethics opinions provided by the legal staff after being reviewed and approved by the Executive Director. INQs deal with opinions previously addressed in public session by the Ethics Commission or within the plain meaning of the County Ethics Code.

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
22-01	(d) RQO 19-06 RQO 03-06	Juana Leon - Administrative Services Manager, The Children's Trust	It is recommended that two board members of The Children's Trust Board (TCT) refrain from voting or participating in funding matters directly or indirectly affecting the ELC and United Way where, respectively, they have automatic conflicts of interests as officers within those entities; the entities' funding does not meet the "minor

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
			<p>allocation” exception in RQO 19-04; and, recusal is in accordance with COE opinions as well as the heightened appearance of impropriety standard in TCT Policy and Bylaws.</p> <p>However, the remaining board member who is an employee of Miami-Dade College (MDC), which does not receive direct funding from this Resolution but may receive an indirect contribution through one of the educator scholarships, may participate and vote on the Resolution because she has no oversight and reaps no personal benefit from the program; she would not profit or be enhanced by this vote; nor would a special benefit come to her as a result of her vote on this item. (LF)</p>
22-02	<p>(j)</p> <p>AO 7-1; RQO 16-02; RQO 00-10; INQ 13-28; INQ 21-135; INQ 15-115; INQ 15-49;</p>	<p>Douglas Houhton</p> <p>Associate Chief of Clinical Operations, Jackson Memorial Hospital Jackson Health System/Public Health Trust</p>	<p>The Ethics Code does not prohibit an employee of the Jackson Health System (“JHS”), from engaging in outside employment as a consultant for Koninklijke Philips N.V. (“Philips”), a JHS vendor that supplies intensive-care monitoring equipment to all JHS intensive care units because the employee has no role or responsibility related to Phillips’ contract with JHS, nor does he have any authority or input regarding the brand or manufacturer of intensive-care monitoring equipment used by JHS. (NAB)</p>
22-03	<p>(g)</p> <p>INQ 17-131 INQ 12-180 INQ 16-76</p>	<p>Mario Morlote</p> <p>Assistant Director, Administrative Division, RER</p>	<p>The Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance does not prohibit the appointment of an interim Assistant Director position in the County’s Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER) because of his impending familial relationship with an administrative secretary in the same Division. While the future interaction between the Int. Asst. Dir. and his future sister-in-law does not raise any significant conflict-of-interest concerns as their interaction is limited to purely clerical and administrative tasks, his role in the review of personnel actions and approval of performance evaluations and ratings affecting promotions or</p>

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
			advancements of all employees under his supervision, including his future sister-in-law, merits careful consideration in light of state nepotism laws and County policies. (MDP)
22-04	(c)(3) & (d) RQO 07-39 RQO 07-12	Charesse Chester Northwest 7 th Avenue Communiy Redevelopment Agency	A board member for the Northwest 7th Avenue Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has no conflict of interest that would preclude her private company, Creativision, from submitting a bid in response to an Invitation to Quote (“ITQ”) from the Miami-Dade County Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD), as the CRA does not oversee, regulate, administer, manage, set policy, or make quasi-judicial decisions regarding PHCD. However, the board member was advised to adhere to the limitations found in the County Ethics Code. (LF)
22-05	(c) INQ 19-54	Pasco “Pat” Santangelo Vice President for Public Relations Little Haiti FC, Inc.	A member of the Bayfront Park Management Trust (an autonomous municipal entity of the City of Miami) who also acts as Vice President of the Little Haiti FC, Inc. (“LHFC”), does not have a prohibited conflict of interest entering into a contract between LHFC and the City of Miami for use of Little Haiti Soccer Park by virtue of being one of LHFC’s corporate officers because the contract will never come before the Bayfront Park Management Trust for review or enforcement, and the City of Miami’s Conflict of Interest Ordinance does not prohibit such a transaction where the Bayfront Park Management Trust member is only affiliated with the entity contracting with the City. (NAB)
22-06	(c) H-INQ 16-82	Norma Mims Immediate Family Member of Robin Mims, Special Projects Administrator 2 of the Department of Transportation and Public Works	An immediate family member of a County employee may contract with the County with the Public Housing and Community Development Department (“PHCD”) as a vendor/landlord under the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (“ERAP”) because the employee works for the County’s Department of Transportation and Public Works, which does not administer the ERAP. (NAB)