



MEMORANDUM MIAMI-DADE CO.

Commission on Ethics & Public Trust
19 W. Flagler St., # 820
Miami, FL 33130

Phone 305 579-2594
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DATE: August 27, 2007
TO: LaKeisha G. Brown, Ethics Officer (WASD)
COPY: Lucille Benjamin, Accountant 2 (WASD)
Dale Poster Ellis, Chief of Compliance (MDHA)
FROM: Victoria Frigo, Staff Attorney(COE)
RE: INQ 07-139
A WASD employee cannot continue as a Section 8 landlord if she becomes an employee of the Miami-Dade Housing Agency. *See* Miami-Dade Co. Conflict of Interest & Code of Ethics at § 2-11.1 (c).

In your email to our office today, you asked if Lucille Benjamin, who is currently a WASD employee, may continue renting two properties through the Housing Agency's Section 8 program if she were to become employed by the Housing Agency.

Ms. Benjamin cannot continue contracting with the Housing Agency if she becomes an employee of the Housing Agency. Under Section (c) of the County Ethics Code, Ms. Benjamin cannot work in the County department that will enforce, oversee or administer contracts she has with the County.

Ms. Benjamin's current Section 8 contracts with the Housing Agency, which she entered into as a WASD employee, are valid until they expire. Based on a discussion today with Dale Poster Ellis, Compliance Chief of the Housing Agency, we understand that these contracts renew yearly, once the Section 8 tenant has been recertified for funding. Consequently, if Ms. Benjamin becomes a Housing Agency employee, each of her current contracts will terminate at the time her tenants are recertified; from that time forward, as an employee of the Housing Agency, Ms. Benjamin will no longer be allowed to renew her current contracts or enter into new contracts with the Housing Agency.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 305 579-2594.