

Meyers, Robert (COE)

INQ 07-37

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2007 3:47 PM
To: Skinner, Arthur D. (COE)
Subject: Your Request for Opinion

Art,

Thanks for your request for opinion. The critical facts are that you have concluded the most cost effective method for us to input the remaining documents into ISYS is by scanning them. You and Rodzandra received quotes from several companies and PageStream, located in Coral Springs, offers us the best price. Pagestream employs one of your sons as a delivery driver and another son works for the company as student intern in the computer department. You want to know whether a conflict of interest exists that prevents the Ethics Commission from doing business with PageStream.

I can identify three provisions of the ethics ordinance that should be analyzed before I can give you an opinion. The first provision to examine is whether a company is doing with a County department where one of its employees has an immediate family member holding a controlling financial interest in the company. From the facts you have provided, neither of your sons has a controlling financial interest in the company. The second consideration is whether the price PageStream quoted you and Rodzandra was the standard price they would charge others, or was the Ethics Commission given a discount because your sons work for the company. There is no evidence to support the conclusion that our office received a special discount from PageStream. Finally, a conflict of interest could be created if you benefit financially from this contract with PageStream. Based on the facts you presented to me, I see no financial benefit that accrues to you as a result of the Ethics Commission contracting with PageStream to provide documents scanning services.

In conclusion, I find no general conflict of interest that bars our office from contract with PageStream nor do I find a special conflict of interest between you and Pagestream. My only recommendation would be to have Rodzandra handle any dealings with PageStream, as she is responsible for dealing with outside vendors.

If you wish to discuss the above, stop by and we can talk.

Robert

3/9/2007

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**MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY
COMMISSION ON
ETHICS & PUBLIC
TRUST**

Memo

To: Robert Meyers, Executive Director

From: Arthur Skinner, Investigator 

CC:

Date: March 8, 2007

Re: Request for Advisory Opinion

Pursuant to the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance I am requesting an opinion regarding any conflict between my employment with the Commission on Ethics and Public Trust and PageStream Corporation of 4252 NW 120th Ave., Coral Springs, Florida 33065, (954) 840-0204.

PageStream Corporation is a company that provides document scanning services. The Commission on Ethics is planning to use this company's services to scan records to create electronic indices.

The company employs my two sons. My older Pierre Skinner is a delivery driver. My younger son Andrew Skinner is a student intern in the computer department. Neither I nor any family member has any financial interest or investment in this corporation.