

Meyers, Robert (COE)

INQ 07-181

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2007 10:45 AM
To: Brant, Marlen (OCI); Gonzalez, Martha (Elections)
Cc: Navarrete, George (OCI); Bonzon-Keenan, Geri (CAO); Cave, Linda (COC); Moore, Shania (COC); Saboya, Maria (Elections); Saiter, Rena (Elections)
Subject: RE: Building Better Communities Citizen's Advisory- Financial Disclosure Non Compliance

County Ordinance 03-74 gives the Board of County Commissioners the authority to exempt certain county boards from the county's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance – the financial disclosure requirement is enumerated in this ordinance. By Resolution 340-03, the County Commission exempted 18 boards from the ethics ordinance. In 2006, a 19th board was added to this list. The Building Better Communities Citizens' Advisory Committee is not one of the advisory committees/boards given an exemption by the County Commission. Therefore, these committee members must file their financial disclosure forms on a timely basis.

I believe the confusion stems from the fact the committee member is applying state law to the local board. Under state law, members of citizen advisory committees are not required to comply with the state financial disclosure requirements. However, the County Code can be stricter and does in fact require all County board/committee members to comply with the provisions of the county ethics ordinance (including financial disclosure) unless the County Commission grants a specific exception for a board.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director
 Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
 (305) 350-0613

From: Brant, Marlen (OCI)
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2007 4:34 PM
To: Gonzalez, Martha (Elections); Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: Navarrete, George (OCI); Bonzon-Keenan, Geri (CAO); Cave, Linda (COC); Moore, Shania (COC); Saboya, Maria (Elections); Saiter, Rena (Elections)
Subject: RE: Building Better Communities Citizen's Advisory- Financial Disclosure Non Compliance

Martha,

Thank you for this clarification. I recommend that the form be corrected so that members will not be confused in the future because it does state that citizens' advisory committees are exempt. Via this email I am asking Mr. Meyers to please send me his direction in writing so that I can forward to the CAC member that questioned it. The CAC member that questioned it is an attorney and does not feel it is necessary because they have no legislative authority.

Regards,

Marlen Brant
 Office of Capital Improvements (OCI)
 General Obligation Bond (GOB) Division
 111 N.W. 1st Street
 Suite 2130
 Miami, Florida 33128-1926

12/11/2007

Office: 305-375-2989, Fax: 305-372-6130
e-mail: mp1@miamidade.gov
"Delivering Excellence Every Day"

From: Gonzalez, Martha (Elections)
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2007 3:20 PM
To: Brant, Marlen (OCI); Meyers, Robert (COE); Walker, Ardyth (COE)
Cc: Navarrete, George (OCI); Bonzon-Keenan, Geri (CAO); Cave, Linda (COC); Moore, Shania (COC); Saboya, Maria (Elections); Saiter, Rena (Elections)
Subject: Building Better Communities Citizen's Advisory- Financial Disclosure Non Compliance

Marlene

Per the Miami-Dade County Code, Section 2-11.1(i), as amended.)Miami Dade County advisory board members need to file a financial disclosure every year unless the board is exempt by a vote of County Commissioners and checking in the County Board and Appointment System (See Attachment) these board members are required to file. Board members do have a choice of filing one of the attach forms.
If you have any other questions please Contact Robert Meyer Executive Director COE.

Martha Gonzalez

Clerk 3
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-----Original Message-----

From: Brant, Marlen (OCI)
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2007 1:39 PM
To: Gonzalez, Martha (Elections)
Cc: Navarrete, George (OCI); Bonzon-Keenan, Geri (CAO)
Subject: RE: Building Better Communities Citizen's Advisory- Financial Disclosure Non Compliance

Martha,

One of the Members of the Building Better Communities Citizen's Advisory Committee has pointed out that the instructions for completing Form 1 of the Statement of Financial Interests clearly states that Citizen Advisory Committees are exempt from this requirement. Please refer to Section 2 of the Local Officers/Employees section where it states: "except for citizen advisory committees." Furthermore, he has decided not to complete these forms.

Please clarify if this is indeed a requirement or not for the Building Better Communities Citizen's Advisory Committee members, or can they opt out of competing these forms.

Thank you,

Marlen Brant
Office of Capital Improvements (OCI)
General Obligation Bond (GOB) Division

12/11/2007

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From: Gonzalez, Martha (Elections)
Sent: Friday, December 07, 2007 10:00 AM
To: Brant, Marlen (OCI)
Cc: Saboya, Maria (Elections); Salter, Rena (Elections)
Subject: Building Better Communities Citizen's Advisory- Financial Disclosure Non Compliance

See attachment. These members did not file their financial disclosure for 2006
If they were active members 12/31/06 they need to file we notified them twice
I never receive a response. Grace period ended 9/04/07. They need to file **one**
the three forms as soon as possible.
I really appreciate your help

Martha Gonzalez
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