

December 10, 2008

Doris Hall
7730 Camino Real Dr., Apt. F-209
Miami, FL 33143

Via First Class Mail and Fax at 305-595-7474

Re: INQ 08-181

Dear Ms. Hall:

In numerous communications dating back to the summer of 2008, you have expressed concerns to our staff about being paid for work you say you completed for the City of North Miami Beach. You have also inquired about whether your political activities on behalf of a sitting City Commissioner would be a bar to your being hired by the City. To memorialize these conversations, we are providing this letter.

The Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics is prohibited from resolving personnel matters¹ and has no jurisdiction to decide government contractual issues as you have described them.²

That said, nothing in the Ethics Code prevents a political campaign supporter from working for the same city in which her candidate serves. However, cities have discretion to deny future employment to anyone based on numerous legitimate criteria, including the appearance of impropriety. Appearances of impropriety are not dealt with in the County Ethics Code.

I hope this helps clarify your issues.

Sincerely,

VICTORIA FRIGO
Staff Attorney

¹ County Code Section 2-1067.

² At Section 2-1072 of the County Code, the Ethics Commission is empowered to interpret County and municipal Code of Ethics Ordinances, Conflict of Interest Ordinances, Lobbyist Ordinances, and Ethical Campaign Practices Ordinances. At Section 2-56.28.17, the Ethics Commission is empowered to make findings in County whistleblower retaliation claims.