

Meyers, Robert (COE)

INQ 08-146

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2008 2:01 PM
To: 'Lee Sandler'
Cc: Ojeda, Tony (ITC)
Subject: RE: Question

Lee,

I spoke to Tony Ojeda and Commissioner Seijas as well. As understand it, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and the county's International Trade Consortium (ITC) will be going on a joint mission to Chile and Peru later this year. Tony Ojeda advised me that the joint mission was approved by the ITC Board. Two of the chamber members who also sit on the ITC board will be part of the mission. According to Tony, the trade mission's programmatic content includes a government component consisting of presentations by Commissioner Seijas, Mr. Ojeda, representatives of the county's airport and seaport and the private sector chair of the ITC. Another part of the program includes a forum organized by the Greater Miami Chamber where experts in specific fields – law, real estate, engineering, to name a few – will make presentations. There will be an opportunity for individuals on the mission to participate in a matchmaking session. Finally, profiles of members who are part of trade delegation will be available and circulated during the mission.

The purpose of the private sector forum is to be informative and assist those in Chile and Peru who may want to do business in Miami-Dade. It is conceivable that technical questions will be asked of the experts who will be presenting and it might be appropriate to refer these matters to local (Miami-Dade) individuals or firms. The issue then is whether the two members of the ITC Board who are participating in the private sector forum may promote their businesses and themselves in their presentations and conversations with Chilean and Peruvian business owners without exploiting their official positions as ITC Board members.

I offer two suggestions to prevent any violations of the county's ethics ordinance. First, the profiles of the two ITC Board members who will be speaking at the private sector forum should be devoid of any reference to their affiliation with the county's ITC. Secondly, when the two board members are introduced at the private sector forum, their relationship with Miami-Dade County government should not be mentioned and the speakers should avoid any references to their service to the ITC as well.

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

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

From: Lee Sandler [mailto:LSandler@strtrade.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2008 2:30 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Re: Question

Understood. Both the commissioner and tony shd be aware of this. Tony had suggested we reach out for this guidance from you

Thanks

8/29/2008

Lee

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From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
To: Lee Sandler
Sent: Wed Aug 27 14:16:47 2008
Subject: RE: Question
Lee,

I have a call into Commissioner Seijas and I would like to speak with her before providing you with an opinion. I am told she will call me back later today or tomorrow.

Thanks for your patience.

Robert

From: Lee Sandler [mailto:LSandler@strtrade.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2008 10:53 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Question

Please let me know status of your review of the question we discussed regarding the role of ITC Board members who are also Chamber members and participating on the Peru/Chile Mission

Thanks

Lee
Cell 305-495-7004

8/29/2008