

January 13, 2009

Ralph Puig, Jr., President
PUIG & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS, INC.
13505 SW 99th Place
Miami, FL 33176

Via First Class Mail

Re: INQ 09-02 Registering as a County Vendor

Dear Mr. Puig:

In correspondence to our office on January 9, 2009, you said that you wish to register your business, PUIG & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS, INC., as a County vendor.

The facts as we understand them are as follows:

1. Your daughter, VANESSA NICOLE PUIG, is a Chief Media Aide with the Office of the Chair of the Miami-Dade BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.
2. PUIG & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS, INC., a business owned by you and in which you serve as President, deals in architecture and construction plans.
3. PUIG & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS, INC., is seeking to register as a vendor in order to do business with the County.

It is the opinion of the Ethics Commission staff that PUIG & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS, INC., may register to contract with the County as long as any contract does not interfere with the full and faithful discharge of VANESSA NICOLE PUIG's duties to the County. This includes the condition that VANESSA NICOLE PUIG not participate in determining the contract requirements or in awarding the contract. Additionally, none of VANESSA NICOLE PUIG's job responsibilities and job descriptions may require her to be involved in the contract in any way including, but not limited to, its enforcement, oversight, administration, amendment, extension, termination, or forbearance. Finally, VANESSA NICOLE PUIG may not work in any County department that will enforce, oversee, or administer the contract.

This opinion is consistent with previous ethics opinions dealing with County employees who work directly with the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS and whose immediate family members seek to contract with the County. (*See* RQO 03-14 and INQ 06-134).

If any of the facts you have presented change, or if you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 305.350.0601.

Sincerely,

VICTORIA FRIGO
Staff Attorney