

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2009 2:48 PM
To: 'Kashmer, Ann'
Subject: INQ 09-72 Ethics Opinion

Hello Ann,

Based on our conversation today, I see no ethics conflicts for you, as an employee of the City of Miami, to serve as a volunteer board member with the Miami Woman's Club. You stated that none of your responsibilities with the City in any way influences the disbursement of CRA funds to the Woman's Club and that you will not lobby the City or the Miami CRA to obtain funding for the Miami Woman's Club.

As a former treasurer of the Woman's Club, you lobbied for CRA funds in the past, but you were not employed by the City of Miami at the time. Subsequent to your employment with the City, you have resigned as treasurer of the Woman's Club. Your service on the board of the Woman's Club, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, is unpaid. You in no way benefit, directly or indirectly, from funds that the Woman's Club receives from the Miami CRA.

Currently, you are the project coordinator for the City of Miami's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). Through this program, the City of Miami uses federal funds to purchase homes in foreclosure or homes that have been abandoned. The City then rehabilitates, redevelops, and resells these properties in order to stabilize neighborhoods.

The Miami CRA is not an independent agency, because the City mayor and commissioners serve as the board of the CRA. But because you are not in a position to benefit the Woman's Club or yourself through your responsibilities with the City, you have no ethics conflicts.

Sincerely,

Victoria Frigo, Staff Attorney
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From: Kashmer, Ann [mailto:akashmer@miamigov.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2009 6:34 PM
To: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Subject: Ethics ruling

Hi Victoria, I got your name from Ilene Temchin here at the City. She sends her best regards.

I am a new employee, unclassified, with the City of Miami, and have a question about potential conflict of

5/11/2009

interest. Before I joined the City, I was the Treasurer of the Miami Woman's Club, and sat on the Executive and regular board of the Club. I resigned my position as Treasurer when I joined the City in February, since I was the one responsible for tracking the Omni CRA grant to the Woman's Club. They received a small grant over the years, but recently had 2 grants awarded for \$3.75 million for the repairs needed for the 40-year recertification of their historic building at 1737 N. Bayshore Drive. Monies from previous grants, and the recertification grants are either on a reimbursement basis to the Club or usually are paid directly to the service providers.

The question that I now have is, since this is CRA money and not money funded directly by the City per se, can I still remain as a board member of the Miami Woman's Club, absent my Treasurer's position? If not, can I still remain a member, or would I have to resign from the Club?

Thank you for looking into this for me. Ann

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