

Meyers, Robert (COE)

JNQ 10-20

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 3:57 PM
To: Silva, Eric (DP&Z)
Cc: Collier, Craig (CAO); Linn, Jess (DP&Z); Newsome, Amina N. (DP&Z)
Subject: RE: Sunshine Law - Financial Disclosure

Dear Mr. Silver:

The Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance requires that members of County boards are required to file financial disclosure forms. Exceptions exist in the County Code for citizen review committees and the Ethics Commission has found that Ad Hoc committee members are exempt from the financial disclosure requirement as well. The other consideration is that financial disclosure is only one of provisions of the county ethics ordinance. Therefore, a board member who is obligated under the law to complete the financial disclosure form must comply with all of the sections of the ethics ordinance --- one cannot be bound by certain provisions and exempt from others.

Given the composition of the charrettes, the purpose for which they are organized and their responsibilities, I am of the opinion that the members do not have to file financial disclosure forms.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

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

From: Silva, Eric (DP&Z)
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 11:05 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: Collier, Craig (CAO); Linn, Jess (DP&Z); Newsome, Amina N. (DP&Z)
Subject: RE: Sunshine Law - Financial Disclosure

Robert,

Regarding the appointment of members of the charrette steering committees they are asked to serve on the committee, they are not appointed through a BCC action.

Thank you,

Eric

Eric Silva, AICP
Chief, Community Planning
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From: Newsome, Amina N. (DP&Z)
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 8:44 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: Collier, Craig (CAO); Linn, Jess (DP&Z); Silva, Eric (DP&Z)
Subject: RE: Sunshine Law - Financial Disclosure

Hi Robert,

Hopefully you can help shed light on this question. A little background information – when conducting a charrette, area plan or the like, steering committee members are generally appointed by commissioners or community council members. They are responsible for assisting staff in the preparation of planning documents for the specific area. The steering committee meets regularly with the staff and community residents. The number of meetings depends on the community's need and vary by project. In 2005, we were informed that steering committee members were bound to the Sunshine Law, however we never requested financial disclosure from committee members. Recently the question has been raised and we are in need of an opinion regarding the need for steering committee members to complete financial disclosure forms. It is our belief that they are serving in an advisory capacity that seems to fall under FS 112.3145(1)(a)(2)(e). Please advise.

Thank you,

Amina N. Newsome, Senior Planner
Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning
111 NW 1 Street, Suite 1210 ~ Miami, Florida 33128-1972
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From: Collier, Craig (CAO)
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 5:39 PM
To: Newsome, Amina N. (DP&Z)
Cc: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: RE: Sunshine Law - Financial Disclosure

Such an opinion needs to be rendered by the Ethics Commission ; I would urge you to contact Robert Myers.

Craig H. Collier
Assistant County Attorney
Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office

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From: Newsome, Amina N. (DP&Z)
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 5:08 PM
To: Coller, Craig (CAO)
Cc: Linn, Jess (DP&Z); Silva, Eric (DP&Z)
Subject: Sunshine Law - Financial Disclosure

Hi Craig,

We need an opinion regarding Financial Disclosure as it relates to appointed members of charrette steering committees. The question has been raised by Palmer Lake Charrette Steering Committee members, who were appointed by Commissioner Barreiro. They are serving in an advisory capacity that seems to fall under FS 112.3145(1)(a)(2)(e). We need to confirm that they do NOT need to file financial disclosure forms.

Thank you for your assistance.

Amina N. Newsome, Senior Planner
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