



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST**

JNQ 11-08

On January 19, 2011, I spoke to Lynn Dannheiser, Village Attorney for Surfside, and she wanted to know what ethical issues exist, if any, concerning the Village's decision to hire an attorney whom she is dating as part of its legal team. Ms. Dannheiser advised the Council of her personal relationship with the attorney prior to the vote and she indicated to me that he has a great deal of experience in this area of law. Ms. Dannheiser has not violated the county code of ethics ordinance on recommending professional services, as the duties of her office require her to assemble the best possible legal team and she presented the name of the attorney at a public meeting for Council approval – the contract was approved 4-1. Furthermore, Ms. Dannheiser does not stand to financially benefit from the decision of the Surfside Council to retain the attorney's services.

Robert Meyers
January 24, 2011