

Meyers, Robert (COE)

FNO 11-79

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 1:12 PM
To: 'Toufic Zakharia'
Subject: RE: Ethics Opinion Request

Dear Mr. Zakharia:

Thank you for your request for opinion. As I understand it, you are a member of a community council and wish to know whether there are any restrictions on your ability to offer support to candidates running for local, state and federal office. I will attempt to address your questions one-by-one.

- As a Community Council member, you can work as an unpaid staffer for your candidate of choice.
- I don't know what you mean by officially supporting a candidate. The candidate can certainly claim that he/she is endorsed by you and the candidate can use your title in any campaign literature distributed by the candidate.
- Your position does not prohibit you from making campaign contributions to candidates seeking local, state or federal office.
- You can volunteer for federal campaigns, but the time you devote to this activity must not coincide with the time you spend performing your official duties as a community council member. In other words, during your meetings it would be inappropriate for you to mention your affiliation with a particular campaign. Moreover, if you were talking to residents about an issue in your community, you would not be permitted to bring up your connection to a specific candidate.

If I have not addressed all of your questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

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

From: Toufic Zakharia [mailto:touficzakharia@mail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2011 4:13 PM
To: Murawski, Michael P. (COE)
Cc: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Re: Ethics Opinion Request

Mike,

Thank you for your reply.

I would like to know if I as a councilman can volunteer as a nonpaid staff as a resident of Miami Dade County ?

Can I officially support a local, state or federal candidate ?

Can I make a donation to a local, state or federal campaign ?

Since the federal election campaigns will be starting again, what are my limitations as a councilman, if I decide to volunteer for any of the campaigns.

5/17/2011

Thank you very much for your time and service.

Toufic Zakharia

----- Original Message -----

From: Murawski, Michael P. (COE)

Sent: 05/13/11 04:01 PM

To: touficzakharia@mail.com

Subject: Ethics Opinion Request

Dear Mr. Zakharia:

I have discussed your request for opinion with our Executive Director, Mr. Robert Meyers. We would be happy to provide you with a written opinion outlining the actions you may and may not engage in in your capacity as a volunteer in the campaign of Mr. Robaina (county commission candidate). Please send me your request in writing briefly reiterating what you told me on the phone so we can have a record of exactly what your request is.

Thank You

Sincerely,

Mike Murawski

Advocate

Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

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5/17/2011

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5/17/2011