

Meyers, Robert (COE)

JNQ 11-80

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2011 11:16 AM
To: 'jdelcueto@aol.com'
Subject: RE: Request for Opinion

Dear Mr. del Cueto:

Although the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust has no formal legal authority to issue opinions under the heightened conflict of interest standard – outlined by the County Attorney in his May 5, 2011 memorandum to the Board of County Commissioners – I want to point out to you that the County Attorney considered stakeholder conflicts as reasons against appointing individuals to the Financial Recovery Board. The memorandum identifies one stakeholder conflict to be an appointee who was officer/member of a union that has entered into collective bargaining agreements with the Public Health Trust. Pursuant to the authority vested in the President of the South Florida Chapter of the AFL-CIO, you were appointed to serve on the Financial Recovery Board. The question is whether your past affiliations with unions would bar you from sitting on the Financial Recovery Board.

When the County Attorney refers to concerns about perceptions of conflicts associated with the appointment process, I read this to mean current associations, or possibly associations of the recent-past. In your specific case, your activity with a labor union ended in 2008. Therefore, I am of the opinion that no perception of conflict of interest exists and there is no impediment to serving on the FRB.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

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

From: jdelcueto@aol.com [mailto:jdelcueto@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2011 6:22 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Request for Opinion

May 19, 2011

Mr. Robert Meyers
Miami Dade Ethics and
Public Trust Commission

Dear Mr. Meyers.

The Miami Herald ran an editorial piece on Monday the 16th where they wrote that my appointment to the Financial Recovery Board is "ethically challenged". As per (Resolution R-392-11) the standard that FRB members are being held to shall be a heightened standard according to the Conflict of Interest Code.

5/20/2011

I am therefore requesting a written response from your office with regards to any conflicts regarding my appointment to the FRB. Thanking you in advance for your response on this matter.

Best Regards,

Joaquin del Cueto

Joaquin del Cueto

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Miami, FL 33173
305-494-4497
jdelcueto@aol.com**

Retired Fire/Rescue Lieutenant

1974-2006 Miami Dade Fire Rescue

Miami Dade College – Fire Science Degree

Certifications- State Certified Fire Fighter
State Certified EMT
State Certified Paramedic
Aircraft Rescue Firefighter Certification
Hazardous Materials Certified
Dive Rescue Training Certification

Accomplishments/Activities-

Founding member of the AID/OFDA Disaster Response Team. This program was the genesis of today's Florida Task Force 1. This founding group was instrumental in establishing many of the policies and strategies used by emergency responders to disasters around the world today. Some of the foreign disasters that we responded to were Mexico City, El Salvador and Armenia, in the then Soviet Union. We also trained many emergency responders from various countries in Central and South America as well as in the Caribbean.

As one of the Rescue Lieutenants at Miami International Airport, where I served for over 20 years, I took part in updating our mass casualty and disaster plan for MIA. This included mitigating disasters from aircraft crashes, bomb threats and terrorist attacks. Situations that required close coordination with Jackson Memorial Hospital.

All of these experiences along with the normal every day responses to the routine duties of being a fire fighter/paramedic, provided me with the inside knowledge of our counties' capabilities for providing such services as trauma and burn care, treatment of strokes and (STEMI program) for heart attacks. It also made me aware of the very significant role that Jackson plays in our community as its Safety Net Hospital.

2006-2008 – Treasurer - Metro Dade County Fire Fighters, Local 1403

As a Professional Fire Fighter, I have excellent knowledge of Miami Dade County and their Personnel Policies and Procedures. I also have many years of experience in contract negotiations as well as working with public unions in order to develop service excellence programs for our community.

2006-Present – Metro Dade County Fire Fighters Health Trust

As a Trustee of the Fire Fighters Health Trust, our board oversees the health insurance coverage for about 97% of all Miami Dade Fire Fighters and their families. This is one of the most successful employee managed, self-insured, health insurance programs in the U.S.

2007–Present - Public Health Trust

I have been on the PHT Board for almost 4 years. In those 4 years, I have attended over 90% of **all** committee meetings. Also during that time, I have had extensive conversations with all of our stakeholders. From our academic partners, health care professionals, to our environmental specialist, I have listened to their input and feel that I have a global understanding of JHS and all of its challenges.

For all these reasons, I believe that I am uniquely qualified to be on this Financial Recovery Board.

Committees Served:

Executive
Joint Conference Committee for Quality Risk and Patient Safety
Fiscal Affairs, Purchasing & Budget
Facilities Development
Primary Care
Purchasing Subcommittee
Information Systems
Jackson Health System Health Plan
Human Resources Subcommittee
Ad Hoc Public Affairs
Jackson South Advisory Board
Ad Hoc Philanthropy