

Meyers, Robert (COE)

FNO 11-82

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2011 11:36 AM
To: 'AWill88359@aol.com'
Subject: RE: Ethics Opinion

Dear Councilman Williams:

An elected official who has a voting conflict under the Miami-Dade County Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Ordinance must absent himself/herself from the meeting when the item comes up. Therefore in my opinion, you are not obligated to state the nature of your conflict when the agenda item is heard – you simply are required to leave the room. If you wish to state the nature of your conflict before leaving the dais, you can do that, but this is not mandated by the local ethics ordinance.

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

Sincerely,

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

From: AWill88359@aol.com [mailto:AWill88359@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2011 6:22 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: Walker, Ardyth (COE); AWill88359@aol.com
Subject: Ethics Opinion

Robert,

I spoke to your colleague Ardyth today who suggested that I seek a written response from you regarding a conflict of interest that may arise. These are the facts. Please advise accordingly.

There is a potential buyer of real property owned by the City of Miami Gardens who will engage a title agency to do the title work for the transaction. I am affiliated with the title agency's law firm that will provide legal services to the title agency for the transaction with the City. If the transaction moves forward, the City Council of the City of Miami Gardens will have to vote to approve the sale of the real property to the potential buyer.

Ardyth has advised me that I should not vote on this matter and not participate in any public discussion on the matter. What am I supposed to state on the record at the Council meeting where the vote would take place? Do I have any other responsibilities to avoid the conflict of interest?

Thanks.

André L. Williams, Esq.
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