

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2011 4:01 PM
To: 'Elizabeth Gunn'
Subject: Conflict of Interest Opinion (INQ 11-90)

Ms. Gunn,

You requested an ethics opinion regarding the ability of the Miami-Dade Sports Commission to become a registered vendor in Miami-Dade County based on County Commissioner Pepe Diaz's volunteer service as Chair of the Sports Commission as well as the volunteer service of several other County personnel on the Sports Commission Board.

We understand that the Miami-Dade Sports Commission is a public-private nonprofit organization created by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners. The Sports Commission seeks to promote youth, amateur, and professional sports events in Miami-Dade County. You stated that the Sports Commission has entered into a partnership with the Miami-Dade County Parks & Recreation Department to manage the Tropical Park Boxing Center. Membership fees are being collected by the Park Department and transferred to the Sports Commission to cover the expenses of the Boxing Center.

It is the opinion of the Ethics Commission staff that the Miami-Dade Sports Commission may enter into contracts with all County Departments because the County official and County personnel who serve on the Sports Commission Board have no financial interests in the nonprofit organization. Only entities that are at least 10% owned by County officials and/or County personnel are limited in contracting with the County. Nonprofit organizations are not privately owned.

Please be advised, however, that the County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (m) prohibits all County elected officials and County personnel from appearing before any County board or agency or meeting with staff or elected officials to make a presentation or to seek a benefit on behalf of the nonprofit organization. Additionally, the County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (g) prohibits exploitation of one's official position with the County to secure a special privilege or exemption for oneself or others.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

VICTORIA FRIGO, STAFF ATTORNEY
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS
DIRECT PHONE: 305 350-0601
FAX: 305 579-0273



19 WEST FLAGLER ST., SUITE 820
MIAMI, FL 33130

Miami-Dade County is a public entity subject to Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes concerning public records. E-mail messages are covered under such laws and thus subject to disclosure.

From: Elizabeth Gunn [mailto:egunn@miamisports.org]

6/8/2011

Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 4:30 PM
To: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Subject: RE: Conflict of Interest Opinion

Victoria,

The Sports Commission has entered into a partnership with Miami-Dade County Parks & Recreation to manage the Tropical Park Boxing Center. The membership fees are being collected by the park and then released to the Sports Commission to cover the expenses of the gym.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,
Liz

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE) [FRIGOV@miamidade.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 4:04 PM
To: Elizabeth Gunn
Subject: RE: Conflict of Interest Opinion

Liz,

Please tell me again what the Sports Commission is doing that requires it to be registered as a county vendor. You discussed this with me earlier, but I didn't take sufficient notes.

Regards,

VICTORIA FRIGO, STAFF ATTORNEY
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS
DIRECT PHONE: 305 350-0601
FAX: 305 579-0273



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From: Elizabeth Gunn [mailto:egunn@miamisports.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 3:33 PM
To: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Subject: RE: Conflict of Interest Opinion

Victoria,

Please find attached the completed form. If it's possible to get your response letter emailed to me that would be best. If it has to be an original letter please let me know so I can plan accordingly. Again, thank you for all of your help (and patience!).

All the best,
Liz

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE) [FRIGOV@miamidade.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 2:53 PM

To: Elizabeth Gunn
Subject: FW: Conflict of Interest Opinion

Hello Liz

Attached is a form we use to process county vendor applications. Although it's not a perfect fit for your request, some general information about how the Sports Commission acts as a "vendor" would be helpful for completing your ethics opinion.

Thanks again,

VICTORIA FRIGO, STAFF ATTORNEY
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS
DIRECT PHONE: 305 350-0601
FAX: 305 579-0273



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From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 2:25 PM
To: 'egunn@miamisports.org'
Subject: RE: Conflict of Interest Opinion

Hello Liz,

Our Executive Director has asked me to respond to your request for an ethics opinion. Could you call me at my direct number, below, so that we can discuss your request in greater detail?

Thanks.

VICTORIA FRIGO, STAFF ATTORNEY
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS
DIRECT PHONE: 305 350-0601
FAX: 305 579-0273



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MIAMI, FL 33130

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From: Murawski, Michael P. (COE)
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2011 4:48 PM
To: 'Elizabeth Gunn'
Cc: Meyers, Robert (COE); Walker, Ardyth (COE); Frigo, Victoria (COE); Ramos, Miriam S. (COE)
Subject: RE: Conflict of Interest Opinion

I am forwarding your request to our Executive Director and our General Counsel if they need any more information I'm sure they'll contact you.

Have a good weekend.

From: Elizabeth Gunn [mailto:egunn@miamisports.org]
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2011 4:39 PM
To: Murawski, Michael P. (COE)
Subject: Conflict of Interest Opinion

Mike,

Thank you for taking the time to speak to me earlier regarding the written Conflict of Interest Opinion I need to obtain in order to process the vendor application for the Miami-Dade Sports Commission.

The Chairman of the Miami-Dade Sports Commission is also Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, so I've been told by the person processing our vendor registration package that I need to obtain a Conflict of Interest Opinion from the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust. This opinion from the CEO is required prior to the approval of our vendor application.

Please let this correspondence serve as our request for the conflict of interest opinion, and please let me know if you need more information and/or further clarification regarding this request. Thank you.

All the best,
Liz

Elizabeth Gunn
Miami-Dade Sports Commission
Director of Media & Community Relations
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