

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2012 2:49 PM
To: 'Eve Boutsis'; Ramos, Miriam S. (COE)
Cc: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: INQ 12-100 Palmetto Bay Gardening Club

Hello Eve,

You asked if Council members in the Village of Palmetto Bay have a voting conflict if they allocate \$50,000 for park improvements in the Village. Four of the five Village Council members are also members of a garden club whose volunteers help plant and maintain park materials.

The Council members have no voting conflicts allocating funds that will be under the complete control of the Village and used solely for Village improvements.

As we clarified today on the phone, the Village Council will not be allocating public funds directly to the garden club nor will it place public funds under the control of the garden club. These actions might violate Sec. 2-11.1 (d) of the County Ethics Code by creating a prohibited relationship for any of the four Council members if the entity before them were the garden club.

Your second question regarding possible costs associated with entering into an interlocal agreement with the County is being investigated.

Sincerely,

VICTORIA FRIGO, STAFF ATTORNEY

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From: Eve Boutsis [<mailto:eboutsis@fbm-law.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2012 12:39 PM
To: Ramos, Miriam S. (COE); Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Subject:

Hello again ladies:

I have a couple of questions. Will there be a cost associated with the Interlocal Agreement? I know the contractors would pay for the course, but, is there a village cost?

Second, I have another inquiry. There is an informal garden club in village. I don't think they have 501©(3) status. They do gardening projects in the Village, as I understand they have done some projects on Village Park land. They have come to the Village Council asking for the Village to budget \$50000 for them to do projects in the Village (I assume on village park land). 4 of the 5 council members are members of the garden club. Would you consider the request a conflict of interest for the council to vote on?

Very truly yours,

Eve,

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