

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 3:04 PM
To: 'A & H Fernandez'
Cc: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: INQ 12-159 Outside Employment

Chief Fernandez,

In our discussion today, you stated that you would not be engaging in outside employment as a healthcare liaison with North Shore Medical Center. You recognized that functioning as a spokesperson for North Shore Medical Center on health-related issues and, at the same time, serving the community as a Miami-Dade firefighter could create, at a minimum, an appearance of impropriety.

We agreed that firefighters carry out many duties, including the responsibility to educate the public on health and safety matters. The Ethics Commission has found that outside employment conflicts with government employment when the two pursuits overlap or are closely related. *See* County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (j) and RQO 12-11.

I have placed your resignation letter to North Shore Medical Center in your file. Thank you for your diligence in resolving your ethical query.

Sincerely,

VICTORIA FRIGO, STAFF ATTORNEY

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: A & H Fernandez
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 10:39 AM
To: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Subject: RE: Request for opinion

Victoria,

It was a pleasure speaking to you this morning. I appreciate the time you took to listen to me and to validate that I did the right decision in resigning from Tenet.

I am attaching the resignation letter which followed the verbal I gave to Tenet.

Again, thank you for your time

Abel Fernandez

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE) [<mailto:FRIGOV@miamidade.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2012 4:37 PM
To: _____
Subject: κκ: Request for opinion

Chief Fernandez,

I've been assigned to respond to your request for an ethics opinion about outside employment. I understand that you are not assigned to a specific location, but ideally it would be helpful if we could talk a few minutes about some of the facts of your case.

I will not be in the office tomorrow, Friday, Sept. 14, but at your convenience next week, I'd appreciate your calling me at my direct number, below.

Thank you,

VICTORIA FRIGO, STAFF ATTORNEY
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: Ethics (COE)
Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2012 2:10 PM
To: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Subject: FW: Request for opinion

Please review. This one looks a little close for comfort.

From: A & H Fernandez
Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2012 10:57 AM
To: Ethics (COE)
Subject: Request for opinion

I am requesting an opinion on whether my outside employment as a "community healthcare liaison" for North Shore Medical Center, a wholly owned Tenet Hospital, poses any conflict of interest with my position as a Chief Fire Officer for Miami-Dade Fire Rescue.

In my position as a Chief Fire Officer, I serve as an operational Battalion Chief and my job description is located in the Miami-Dade County personnel web page as; "Chief Fire Officer." There you will find the official job description and the duties I am responsible for.

As a Community Healthcare Liaison for North Shore Medical, my job description is to interact with the community and provide health care information. This would entail meeting with home owner associations, government representatives and EMS providers such as ambulances and Fire departments. My duties include providing educational outreach in the forms of lectures, literature and appearances at these different venues.

I currently serve on a 24 hour shift, with two days off. My job with Tenet would strictly be on my off days. Currently, my department director has approved an outside employment, and I am familiar with the reporting requirements to the Elections Department.

Please advise if this position with Tenet Healthcare violates any conflict of interest and/or Code of ethics ordinance.

Abel Fernandez