

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 1:06 PM
To: Maria J Chiaro (mjchiaro@me.com)
Cc: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Subject: INQ - Maria Chiaro

Ms. Chiaro:

You have inquired whether it is permissible under the Miami-Dade County Ethics Code for Miami City Commissioners who wish to endorse candidates for office to use the title of their offices in such endorsement. It is our opinion that they may utilize their official titles in such circumstances, provided that they do not use any city resources in doing so. For instance, it would be inappropriate for a City Commissioner to utilize public stationery for such purposes, or any public resource of his or her office. However, it would be permissible to use private stationery or other privately paid form of communication to communicate an endorsement where the Commissioner is identified by his or her official title.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter any further.

Joe Centorino
Executive Director and General Counsel
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
305-350-0613

From: Murawski, Michael P. (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, October 16, 2012 4:53 PM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Cc: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Subject: FW: City Commissioner Endorsement of candidates for office

FYI

From: Chiaro, Maria J [<mailto:MJChiaro@miamigov.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 16, 2012 4:50 PM
To: Murawski, Michael P. (COE)
Subject: City Commissioner Endorsement of candidates for office
Importance: High

Pursuant to our recent telephone conversation, I am asking for a clarification of the permissibility parameters of Miami City commissioners who wish to endorse candidates for office. It is my understanding that Commissioners may endorse but may not use City resources or the title of their offices to do so. I await your response.

Maria J. Chiaro
Deputy City Attorney
Miami, Florida
<mailto:mjchiaro@miamigov.com>