

## Frigo, Victoria (COE)

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**From:** Centorino, Joseph (COE)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:09 PM  
**To:** Souto, Javier D. (DIST10)  
**Cc:** Frigo, Victoria (COE)  
**Subject:** Inquiry regarding Commissioner Souto's grandson

Commissioner Souto:

This is in response to your request for an opinion regarding the ethical propriety of your grandson's display of a cow, given to him by you, at an upcoming Agriculture, Horse & Cattle Show exhibition in the county. It is my understanding from our conversation that your grandson is a resident of Broward County, and that he received the cow from you as a gift. I further understand that he is planning on bringing the cow to the aforementioned cattle show for display purposes only; that he will not be compensated for doing so; and that he will not be entering the cow into any competition whereby he might be receiving a prize or other benefit. You have pointed out that, in your position as County Commissioner, you have supported the county's involvement in and underwriting of this show, and that it is reflective of your longtime interest in and support of agricultural affairs. It is my opinion that the display of your grandson's cow at the cattle show is not proscribed by any provision of the Miami-Dade Code of Ethics, since neither you nor he will not be deriving any special benefit from his display at the show. You may also appear or otherwise participate in the show in your official capacity, though I would advise against your taking any actions that might create an appearance that your grandson has received any special consideration or other benefit from the fact that you are a County Commissioner.

Please call me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,  
Joe Centorino

*Joseph M. Centorino*

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