

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2013 4:59 PM
To: 'rmonestime@northmiamifl.gov'
Cc: Centorino, Joseph (COE); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: INQ 13-148 voting conflict

Hello Regine,

Mayor Lucie Tondreau does not have a *per se* conflict to vote on matters related to Oleta Partners because the Mayor no longer has a prohibited consulting relationship with the company. However, an appearance of impropriety could be created if Mayor Tondreau were to vote on matters related to Oleta in light of her very recent business association with Oleta and the breadth of the development being undertaken by Oleta in North Miami.

You stated that Mayor Tondreau's contract for public relations and consultation services with Oleta Partners ended in February 2013 and that she currently has no business relationships with Oleta Partners.

However, just as we advised Councilwoman Marie E. Steril in RQO 12-03, elected officials with recent financial involvements with developers of the property known as Biscayne Landing are strongly urged to abstain from voting on matters involving the developers, at least for a period of time, in order to preserve the public trust.

The County's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics provides a minimum standard of conduct for public officials. It does not directly address "appearance of impropriety" issues that should guide the actions of all public servants, nor does it address the subjective mindset of a public official who, for reasons outside of the Code, does not feel capable of being fair or objective in a particular matter, due to personal considerations or recent financial arrangements. Any public official under such circumstances must use his or her own judgment in determining the proper course of action when conducting public business.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

VICTORIA FRIGO, SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY

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From: Monestime, Regine [<mailto:rmonestime@northmiamifl.gov>]
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 12:57 PM
To: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Subject: Opinion
Importance: High

Victoria

Please find the below question pursuant to our recent conversation. Thank you for your response.

Ms. Lucie Tondreau provided public relations and consultation services for Oleta partners for \$2500 per month beginning following the execution of the City of North Miami's lease agreement with the Oleta Partners until February 2013.

Currently, the Mayor has no business relationships with Oleta Partners.

Ms. Tondreau was elected on June 4, 2013 and sworn in as Mayor of the City on June 11, 2013.

Does Mayor Tondreau have any voting conflict for items related to Oleta Partners?

Thank you

Regine



Regine M. Monestime

City Attorney

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