

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Monday, August 05, 2013 3:17 PM
To: 'RHohenstein@fairexpo.com'
Cc: Centorino, Joseph (COE); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: Reagan Equestrian Center Advisory Council (INQ 13-193)

Mr. Hohenstein,

Ms. Ramos has asked me to respond to your question about Sec. 2-11.1 (c)(3) of the County Ethics Code, which applies to you as a member of the Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center Council. You stated that in your private capacity, you are the President/CEO of the private nonprofit organization—the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair & Exposition, Inc. (Youth Fair).

The County Ethics Code provision cited above prohibits a board member from entering into a contract with the County through a business in which he or his immediate family has a *financial interest*, direct or indirect. See the County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (c)(1). In this context, the Ethics Commission has interpreted *financial interest* to be an *ownership* interest. See Ethics Commission Opinion RQO 12-13.

Because no financial ownership interests exist in nonprofit entities such as the Youth Fair, you as President/CEO of the Youth Fair are not prohibited from entering into leasing and licensing agreements with the County on behalf of the Youth Fair.

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

Sincerely,

VICTORIA FRIGO, SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY

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From: Robert Hohenstein [<mailto:RHohenstein@fairexpo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2013 6:20 PM
To: Ramos, Miriam S. (COE)
Subject: Reagan Equestrian Center Advisory Council

Miriam,

Pleasure meeting you last evening. Have a quick question asking for clarity given your presentation of last evening and accompanying Q & A:

I am the President/CEO of the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair & Exposition, Inc. (the Youth Fair)

The Youth Fair has a 90+ year lease agreement with M-DC specifically the Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Department. The lease is in regards to the land in Tamiami Park on which the Fairgrounds reside approximately 86 acres.

As part of this lease agreement, the Youth Fair remits to M-DC annually a percentage of the rental income generated by our renting via a licensing agreement our facilities for non-Youth Fair time events during the mid-April thru mid-February time frame each calendar year. Events such as festivals, trade shows, consumer shows, cultural activities, etc.

Question: Does my position as President/CEO and my position as a member of the Reagan Equestrian Center Advisory Council create a problematic scenario under Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest & Code of Ethics Ordinance specifically Sec. 2-11.1 and more specifically (c) (3) per your presentation?

Thank you for your time, your counsel and I shall look forward to seeing you in the future.

Sincerely,

Bob

Bob Hohenstein

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March 13 - 30, 2014
Be There! The Fair! ®

The Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition, Inc. is not a part of Miami-Dade County or State of Florida government and thus receives no tax dollars or other subsidies. We are a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to enriching our community by promoting education and South Florida agriculture while showcasing and rewarding youth achievement. We accomplish this by producing a first-class eighteen day Fair each Spring with quality family entertainment and providing facilities and resources for year-round events. During our magnificent history, we have contributed over \$10 million to the Miami-Dade County community.

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