

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:57 PM
To: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Cc: Diaz, Manuel W. (COE)
Subject: INQ - Oren Rosenthal, Assistant County Attorney (video lobbying)

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:54 PM
To: Rosenthal, Oren (CAO); Ponassi, Fernando (ISD); Benitez, Hugo (CAO)
Cc: Gonzalez, Eduardo (CAO); Samuels, Faith (ISD); Cordova, Amelia (ISD)
Subject: RE: Videotaped recommendations during oral presentations

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that it is our opinion that persons appearing on a video during an oral presentation, who are attempting to influence a decision such in such a way that the same activity would be considered lobbying if it were done in person, are required to register as lobbyists pursuant to Section 2-11.1(s) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance.

Joseph Centorino, Executive Director and General Counsel
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

From: Rosenthal, Oren (CAO)
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:03 PM
To: Ponassi, Fernando (ISD); Benitez, Hugo (CAO)
Cc: Gonzalez, Eduardo (CAO); Samuels, Faith (ISD); Cordova, Amelia (ISD); Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: RE: Videotaped recommendations during oral presentations

Fernando,

This is a question that, pursuant to Section 2.11(r), is within the purview of the Ethics Commission. I am copying the Joe Centorino, the Executive Director of the Commission on Ethics with your inquiry. Hopefully he or the Ethics Commission can provide you with a response though it seems this is an issue for the proposers more than County staff. Thanks.

Oren Rosenthal
Assistant County Attorney
(305) 375-2828

From: Ponassi, Fernando (ISD)
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:55 PM
To: Benitez, Hugo (CAO)
Cc: Gonzalez, Eduardo (CAO); Rosenthal, Oren (CAO); Samuels, Faith (ISD); Cordova, Amelia (ISD)

Subject: Videotaped recommendations during oral presentations

Importance: High

Good afternoon gentlemen,

Our office is holding today oral presentation for one of WASD's projects. I am told that one of the teams presenting played a videotape as part of its presentation showing three individuals, who are not County staff, recommending the services of the team. The individuals in the video are not listed on the Lobbyist Registration Form, which is a requirement for any person who wishes to address a competitive selection committee during oral presentations.

We would like to know if, in your opinion, this could be construed as a violation of Section 2-11.1(s) of the County Code. If so, should the chairperson instruct the selection committee to disregard those recommendations? The oral presentations are ongoing as we speak. Thank you!

FP

Fernando V. Ponassi, MA Arch, LEED® AP BD+C

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