

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 3:41 PM
To: 'jimdibo@gmail.com'
Cc: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: Outside employment (INQ 13-66)

Mr. DiBernardo,

Only full-time County employees are required to obtain permission to engage in outside employment. See the Miami-Dade County Code at Sec. 2-11.

However, because you retired from the County Police Department less than two years ago, on June 24, 2011, please be advised that you are prohibited from lobbying the County until June 25, 2013. This prohibition might apply if you were seeking to influence an official decision that could benefit a third party or you personally. Lobbying on behalf of government entities, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations is allowed under this provision. See the Miami-Dade County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (q).

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

Sincerely,

VICTORIA FRIGO, SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY

Direct Phone: 305 350-0601
Main Number: 305 579-2594
Fax: 305 579-0273



19 West Flagler St., Suite 820
Miami, FL 33130

Miami-Dade County is a public entity subject to Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes concerning public records. E-mail messages are covered under such laws and thus subject to disclosure.

From: James DiBernardo [<mailto:jimdibo@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 5:30 AM
To: Ramos, Miriam S. (COE)
Subject: Request ethics opinion on outside employment

Sent from my iPad

James B. DiBernardo
[\(305\) 283-7007](tel:3052837007)
jimdibo@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is James DiBernardo, a retired Police Major from the Miami-Dade Police Department, and I am respectfully requesting an opinion on outside employment consulting with the Miami-Dade County Office of the Property Appraiser.

I currently work part-time (20-25 hours per-week) for Miami-Dade County Commissioner Javier Souto, at his district office located at 9766 Coral Way, Suite 1. My duties consist of the following:

- Handling constituents' complaints regarding police issues concerning neighborhood compliance matters.
- Attending Town Hall meetings and updating citizens on the Commissioners' matters, and scheduling guest speakers.

I've been requested by the Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser's Office to serve as a consultant on the Homestead Exemption fraud problem in Miami-Dade County and make recommendations.

I retired on June 24, 2011, after 36 years with Miami-Dade Police Department. Prior to my retirement, on my own time, I started investigating and researching the abuse of Homestead Exemption fraud in Miami-Dade County. I uncovered over 200 million dollars in Homestead Exemption fraud in Miami-Dade County, at which time previous Property Appraiser Pedro Garcia claimed the office had no fraud problem.

My consultant agreement with the new Property Appraiser, Carlos Lopez-Cantera, would be to review the Fraud Division and make recommendations on the following:

1. Internal controls designed to timely detect Homestead Exemption fraud for unqualified homeowners.
2. Automation to detect of Homestead Exemption fraud.
3. Case management of Homestead Exemption fraud.

Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [\(305\) 283-7007](tel:3052837007), or via email at jjmdibo@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

James Di Bernardo

Think Green. Please only print this e-mail if you need to.