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**From:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2014 12:14 PM  
**To:** Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)  
**Subject:** Mike Hernandez, Director of Communications, Miami-Dade County Mayor's Office (Lobbying) INQ 14-126

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**From:** Centorino, Joseph (COE)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2014 10:46 AM  
**To:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Hernandez, Michael A. (Office of the Mayor)  
**Cc:** Sanchez, Gerald (CAO)  
**Subject:** INQ - Mike Hernandez, Director of Communications, Miami-Dade County Mayor's Office (Lobbying)

Mike Hernandez, Communications Director for the Miami-Dade County Mayor, inquired whether all of the members of a group meeting with the Mayor, consisting of lobbyists and principals of an unsuccessful bidder, as well as representatives of subcontractors on the unsuccessful bid, need to be registered as lobbyists where the purpose of the meeting is to air grievances about the process and clear up misunderstandings that may have occurred in the process, but is not intended to change the decision already made or to influence any other decision to be made by the Mayor.

Mr. Hernandez was advised that, under Section 2-11.1(s)(1)(b) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, a "lobbyist" is someone employed or retained by a principal, or is the principal, and who seeks to encourage or influence some action or decision of the Mayor. If the discussion is merely informational in order to air out procedural differences, disagreements, grievances or misunderstandings concerning past actions or decisions, then the discussion is not technically lobbying under the ordinance and it may include non-registered lobbyists. However, Mr. Hernandez was advised that the area of discussion referenced herein as not being lobbying is a very narrow one. If the discussion were to enter on any subject intended to influence a decision of the Mayor on a future decision submitted to the BCC, or to cause the Mayor to reconsider his prior decision, then such discussion would require anyone involved in the discussion to be a registered lobbyist. Mr. Hernandez was advised that in any situation where a discussion is likely to veer into an attempt to influence the Mayor's decision-making in connection with any future decision, the better practice is to insist that all persons present be registered lobbyists.

*Joseph M. Centorino*

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