

Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 1:58 PM
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: INQ - Victoria Mendez, City Attorney, City of Miami (Sunshine Law)

-----Original Message-----

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 9:48 AM
To: 'Mendez, Victoria'; Ramos, Miriam S. (COE); Murawski, Michael P. (COE)
Cc: Min, Barnaby; Wysong, George; Suarez-Rivas, Rafael
Subject: RE: Setting time certain items in city of miami

Ms. Mendez:

In regard to the setting of time certain items, I do not believe that a communication regarding the mere setting of an item, as a purely procedural matter, creates a Sunshine Law violation. However, it has been my experience that any contact between elected officials or their aides regarding specific matters coming before their board are to be avoided. Appearances created by innocent contacts can sometimes be interpreted in ways that the participants might not contemplate. My general advice, which is not at all mandatory, is that the commissioners or aides refrain from such direct contact and make arrangements with the Clerk's office or Manager's office or the City Attorney's Office, whichever is most appropriate, to communicate with the Commission regarding the timing of these items. Please feel free to call me if you would like to discuss this any further.

Sincerely,
Joe Centorino
305-579-2594

-----Original Message-----

From: Mendez, Victoria [<mailto:VMendez@miamigov.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 9:05 AM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE); Ramos, Miriam S. (COE); Murawski, Michael P. (COE)
Cc: Min, Barnaby; Wysong, George; Suarez-Rivas, Rafael
Subject: Setting time certain items in city of miami

Hello,

We have a city commission meeting this Thursday. Commissioners have asked what would be the best way to set a time certain item. In the past this has been done via memo or email to the chair's chief of staff who sets the item at a specific time. The memo or email is sent by another commissioner's aide to the chief of staff. Since this is just procedural in matter, not a discussion on a vote, it has been the opinion of this office in the past that it should not be considered any type of sunshine law violation. In an abundance of caution, I wanted to be sure and check with you. Please advise. Thank you so much!

Sent from my iPhone