
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 3:32 PM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: FW: Robert Ruano, President, Ecostrata Services, Inc. Ethics Opinion (voting conflicts)
INQ 14-244

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From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 3:32 PM
To: Ethics (COE)
Subject: Robert Ruano, President, Ecostrata Services, Inc. Ethics Opinion (voting conflicts) INQ 14-244

Dear Mr. Ruano:

You have inquired about a possible voting conflict. As background, you serve as a County Planning Advisory Board (PAB) member. The PAB board will entertain discussion and vote on an item regarding proposed zoning changes to the old FEC rail line (Ludlam Trail) on October 20, 2104. Mr. Tony Garcia is a member of "Friends of the Ludlam Trail, a non-profit group that opposes the proposed zoning change. You advise that you and Mr. Garcia are not business partners and that you are not a member of the nonprofit group. However, you and Mr. Garcia share office space under a joint office lease and Friends of Ludlam Trail uses Mr. Garcia's office address (which is also your business address given that you share office space with Mr. Garcia) as its business address.

The County Ethics Code does not prohibit you, as a County Planning Advisory Board member, from voting on the proposed zoning changes to the Ludlam Trail because you would not personally benefit from the vote and you do not have a prohibited relationship (officer, director, partner, of counsel, employee, fiduciary or beneficiary, stockholder, bondholder, debtor or creditor) with the parties appearing before the PAB board on this matter. See the Miami-Dade County Ethics Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (v).

You may wish to recuse yourself from voting, however, based on what some may see as an appearance of impropriety because of your relationship with Mr. Garcia and the fact that the office space you share with him serves as the business address for Friends of the Ludlam Trail.

If you choose to recuse yourself from these matters, please 1) announce publicly at the meeting the nature of the conflicts before the items are heard; 2) absent yourself from that portion of the meeting during which the items are discussed and/or voted upon; and 3) file a written disclosure of the nature of the conflicts with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting within 15 days after the vote.

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

Best regards,

Gilma (Mimi) Diaz-Greco
Staff Attorney



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From: Ethics (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 2:49 PM
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: FW: Possible conflict on Planning Advisory Board item

From: Robert Ruano [<mailto:rjuano@ecostratas.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 12:57 PM
To: Ethics (COE)
Cc: Zibold, Alejandro (RER)
Subject: RE: Possible conflict on Planning Advisory Board item

Hello. I have still not heard back regarding my possible conflict.

Is someone researching this? The meeting is coming up on the 20th.

Thanks,
Robert



Robert Ruano, LEED AP
President
Ecostrata Services, Inc.
221 Aragon Avenue, Ste. 204
Coral Gables, FL 33134

786-441-9200 ofc
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From: Ethics (COE) [<mailto:ethics@miamidade.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2014 11:26 AM
To: Robert Ruano
Subject: RE: Possible conflict on Planning Advisory Board item

Please respond to Mr. Ruano.

From: Robert Ruano [<mailto:rjuano@ecostratas.com>]
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2014 3:07 PM
To: Ethics (COE)
Cc: Zizold, Alejandro (RER)
Subject: Possible conflict on Planning Advisory Board item

Hello,

I am a PAB member appointed by Commissioner Suarez. I am writing because I have a question about a potential conflict with an item that is going before the PAB on October 20th. The item is about upzoning the old FEC rail line – known by many as the ‘Ludlam Trail’.

I am writing because the person I share offices with (Mr. Tony Garcia) at the address below is heavily involved in the nonprofit group, Friends of the Ludlam Trail. While Tony and I are not in business together and I am not involved with his nonprofit, we do serve on two other nonprofit boards together. The item coming before the PAB in October is being opposed by Friends of the Ludlam Trail. My other reason for concern is that the nonprofit address is the same as my business address, below, since Tony is also here and receives their mail.

I am wondering if I need to recuse myself from the discussion and vote on October 20th, so as to avoid any conflict. Please feel free to email me or call me on my cell phone to discuss.

Thanks,

Robert



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