
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2014 10:23 AM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Gabriel Edmond, Commissioner, City of South Miami (Voting Conflict) INQ 14-248

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From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2014 4:36 PM
To: 'GEdmond@southmiamifl.gov'
Cc: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: INQ - Gabriel Edmond, Commissioner, City of South Miami (Voting Conflict)

Commissioner Edmond:

You have inquired regarding whether it would present an ethical conflict for you to be involved in the approval of a an agreement under which the City of South Miami would permit Southwest High School to use its gym facilities at half of the regular rental fee. You have asked this in light of your position as a teacher at Southwest High School. Southwest High School is undergoing renovations in its gym facility. Your involvement in this would have resulted in the South Miami Commission making its facility available to the school at a special rate.

While I realize that you may have been well-intentioned in seeking to assist your school in obtaining suitable facilities at a reasonable rate, your position as a teacher at the school creates an ethical conflict under the County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance for you to be involved in or to vote on this matter. Under Section 2-11.1(d) you may not participate or vote on any matter by which you might, directly or indirectly, profit or be enhanced. Your obtaining a special rate for the school where you are employed could result in an enhancement of your employment position at the school. The County Code is very strict on these types of conflicts, and there is no necessity that you actually derive a financial benefit to trigger this position. The obtaining of a special rate for the school through the use of your public position could also be a possible Exploitation of Official Position under Section 2-11.1(g) of the Code. Therefore, you should not take any further action to promote this agreement, nor should you arrange to have any other Commissioner act on your behalf regarding the same matter.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Centorino

Executive Director and General Counsel
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
19 W. Flagler Street, Suite 820
Miami, FL 33130
Tel: (305) 579-2594
Fax: (305) 579-0273
ethics.miamidade.gov

