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**From:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 23, 2014 9:26 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)  
**Subject:** Betty Ortiz-Valdes, former Miami-Dade County employee (Two-year Rule) INQ 14-254

INQ 14-254

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**From:** Ethics (COE)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 22, 2014 5:59 PM  
**To:** 'BETTY'; Ethics (COE)  
**Cc:** Pace, Keva (ISD); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Subject:** INQ - Betty Ortiz-Valdes, former Miami-Dade County employee (Two-year Rule)

Ms. Ortiz-Valdez:

You have inquired whether, as a recent retiree from Miami-Dade County, you may work for consultants, contractors or vendors of the County in view of the "two-year rule" in Section 2-11.1(q) of the County Ethics Code.

Pursuant to Section 2-11.1(q) of the County Ethics Code, you may not, as a former County employee, lobby and County officer, departmental personnel or employee for a period of two years after the cessation of your county service. This means that you must not engage in activity intended to influence any official determination at the County, regardless of whether the determination will foreseeably be decided or recommended by any of the County's commissions, boards, committees or by the Mayor. In effect, this is a more stringent definition of lobbying than would be applied to individuals who are not covered by the two-year rule.

Under the Ethics Code, you may work for a company which does business with the County as a vendor, consultant, contractor, etc., provided that you do not engage in lobbying on behalf of that company for the requisite two-year period. You should also be aware, however, that as a former employee you remain subject to Section 2-11.1(h) of the Ethics Code, which prohibits you from ever disclosing confidential information acquired by you through your official position with the County, or ever using such information, directly or indirectly, for your personal gain or benefit.

I hope that this provides you with the information you need to proceed with your life and career. Good luck.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Centorino  
Executive Director and General Counsel  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

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**From:** BETTY [<mailto:ortizvab@comcast.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 22, 2014 5:16 PM  
**To:** Ethics (COE)  
**Cc:** Pace, Keva (ISD)  
**Subject:** Request Opinion - Section 2-11.1 (q) ("two-year rule") - Betty Ortiz-Valdes

Good evening.

My name is Betty Ortiz-Valdes and a former Miami-Dade County employee. I retired July 31, 2014. I started my own business "America Business & Management Services LLC dba ABMS". I have submitted an application to Miami-Dade County Small Business Development (SBD) to be certified as a "Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE/ACDBE)". SBD is requiring (see email below) an opinion from your office since I have recently retired from the County.

My business tends to provide business and management services (i.e. subcontracting/sub-consulting). I have attached a reference letter which describes my background and the type of services that I plan to offer. My business *does not include* lobbying Miami-Dade County nor do I intend to lobby as per the two-year rule.

It is my understanding that "a former employee may obtain work with contractors, consultants, vendors, etc, of their former County or municipal employer".

I appreciate your assistance in providing an opinion regarding Section 2-11.1 (q) ("two-year rule") as it relates to my business. Please advise if you need any additional information or clarification.

Thank you.

Betty Ortiz-Valdes, President  
America Business & Management Services LLC dba ABMS  
[ortizvab@comcast.net](mailto:ortizvab@comcast.net)

Attachment: Reference Letter

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**From:** "Pace, Keva" <[KPACE@miamidade.gov](mailto:KPACE@miamidade.gov)>  
**To:** "Ortiz-Valdes, Betty" <[ortizvab@comcast.net](mailto:ortizvab@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 22, 2014 12:10:01 PM  
**Subject:** American Business & Management Services, LLC

Hello Betty

Small Business Development (SBD) is in receipt of your firm's FDOT/DBE Continuing Eligibility Affidavit and supporting documents. After reviewing your file we found that specific documents were missing to complete your file and comply with information required by 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 26. The information and supporting documentation described below must be submitted to continue your file review process. You must provide the information within thirty-five (35) days from the date on this notification.

- Please review Section 3(B)(2) of the application attached. You submitted documentation attesting that your initial investment for start-up was \$500. However, this value does not match the number reported on the application. As such, please revise this Section of the application attached and resubmit.
- Please submit notarized letter attesting to having or not having ownership or financial interest in other companies. If applicable, please list all companies owned your percentage of ownership and the services each provide.
- Records indicate that you were a Miami Dade County Employee within the Aviation Department in the last year. As such, an opinion from the Miami Dade County Ethics Commission regarding this matter is required.

Pursuant to 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 26.73(c), firms seeking DBE certification shall cooperate fully with request for information relevant to the certification process. Failure or refusal to provide such information is a ground for a denial of certification. If the Department does not receive the requested information, your application for DBE certification may be denied.

Thank you,

Keva L. Pace  
Small Business Development  
111 NW 1ST Street, 19th Floor  
Miami, FL, 33128  
305-375-3137 (phone)  
305-375-2343 (fax)  
[kpace@miamidade.gov](mailto:kpace@miamidade.gov)