



To: Belkys Garcia

From: Craig E. Leen, City Attorney for the City of Coral Gables *CL*

RE: Legal Opinion Regarding Lobbyist Ordinance

Date: June 15, 2016

Both the Construction Regulation Board and the Tree Protection Appeals Committee meet in a quasi-judicial capacity. Pursuant to Sec. 2-11.1(s)(1)(b) of the Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance, “attorneys or other representatives retained or employed solely for the purpose of representing individuals, corporations or other entities during publicly noticed quasi-judicial proceedings where the law prohibits ex-parte communications” are not considered lobbyists and therefore, do not have to register.

This opinion is issued pursuant to Sec. 2-201(e)(1) and (8) of the City of Coral Gables Code authorizing the City Attorney’s Office to issue opinions and interpretations on behalf of the City.

From: [Leen, Craig](#)
To: [Paulk, Enga](#)
Cc: [Ramos, Miriam](#)
Subject: FW: Lobbyist Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:58:46 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Please publish.

Craig E. Leen, City Attorney

*Board Certified by the Florida Bar in
City, County and Local Government Law*
City of Coral Gables
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Phone: (305) 460-5218
Fax: (305) 460-5264
Email: cleen@coralgables.com



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From: Ramos, Miriam
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 12:38 PM
To: Garcia, Belkys
Cc: Leen, Craig; Iglesias, Peter; Wu, Charles; Miner, William; Lopez, Manuel; Goizueta, Virginia
Subject: RE: Lobbyist Ordinance

Hi Belkys,

Both the Construction Regulation Board and the Tree Protection Appeals Committee meet in a quasi-judicial capacity. Pursuant to Sec. 2-11.1(s)(1)(b) of the Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance, “attorneys or other representatives retained or employed solely for the purpose of representing individuals, corporations or other entities during publicly noticed quasi-judicial proceedings where the law prohibits ex-

parte communications” are *not* considered lobbyists and therefore, do not have to register.

This opinion is issued pursuant to Sec. 2-201(e)(1) and (8) of the City of Coral Gables Code authorizing the City Attorney’s Office to issue opinions and interpretations on behalf of the City.

Sincerely,

Miriam S. Ramos, Esq.

Deputy City Attorney
City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way, 3rd Floor
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(305) 460-5084 direct dial



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From: Garcia, Belkys
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:59 AM
To: Ramos, Miriam
Cc: Leen, Craig; Iglesias, Peter; Wu, Charles; Miner, William; Lopez, Manuel; Goizueta, Virginia
Subject: Lobbyist Ordinance

Good morning Miriam,

I was asked to send you an email regarding the Subject Ordinance as I need clarification. We spoke to the City Clerk's office last week due to questions we had regarding the Attached Lobbyist Ordinance; specifically, as it pertains to the Construction Regulation Board meetings. We were advised those representing and/or speaking on behalf of a property owner will be required to register with the City Clerk's office prior to testifying at a meeting as per the Ordinance.

Additionally, please let me know if this Ordinance is also in effect for the Tree Protection Appeals Committee meetings.

Your assistance and guidance on this matter is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Belkys Garcia
City of Coral Gables
Development Services Department
405 Biltmore Way, 3rd Floor
Coral Gables, Florida 33134
Office: (305) 460-5229

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