MEMORANDUM

IMFR
Agenda Item No. 1(F)1

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 14, 2012

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Ordinance relating to Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance: amending Sec. 2-11.1(s) of the Code, to require lobbyists to complete ethics course within specified time periods; providing for fee

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The accompanying ordinance was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Lynda Bell and Co-Sponsor Commissioner Rebeca Sosa.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls

Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date:

To: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

Subject: Ordinance requiring lobbyists to complete ethics course within specified time periods

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The proposed ordinance requires that each lobbyist, within sixty (60) days of registering as a lobbyist, submit to the Clerk of the Board a certificate of completion of an ethics course offered by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust. In addition, a refresher course must be completed every two years for continuously registering lobbyists. The fee for the Ethics Course is $100. However, at this time it is difficult to determine the number of new registrations and re-registering lobbyists that may be required to take an ethics course. Any additional workload generated by the implementation of this ordinance will be handled by the department's current staff, but it is anticipated this will have a positive fiscal impact to the Ethics Commission's budget.

Office of the Mayor

Fis2612

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 19, 2011

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 4(B)

Please note any items checked.

_____	**"3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised**
✓	**6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing**
✓	**4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing**
_____	**Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget**
_____	**Budget required**
_____	**Statement of fiscal impact required**
_____	**Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing**
_____	**No committee review**
_____	**Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous _____) to approve**
_____	**Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required**

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 4(B)
12-19-11

ORDINANCE NO. _____

ORDINANCE RELATING TO CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CODE OF ETHICS ORDINANCE; AMENDING SECTION 2-11.1(S) OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO REQUIRE LOBBYISTS TO COMPLETE ETHICS COURSE WITHIN SPECIFIED TIME PERIODS; PROVIDING FOR FEE, SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Section 2-11.1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:[1]

Sec 2-11.1. Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance.

* * *

(s) *Lobbying.*

(1)(a) As used in this section, "County personnel" means those County officers and employees specified in Section 2-11.1(i)(2) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance.

(b) As used in this section, "Lobbyist" means all persons, firms, or corporations employed or retained by a principal who seeks to encourage the passage, defeat, or modifications of (1) ordinance, resolution, action or decision of the County Commission; (2) any action, decision, recommendation of the County Manager or any County board or committee; or (3) any action, decision or recommendation of County personnel during the time period of the entire

[1] Words stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] shall be deleted. Words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< constitute the amendment proposed. Remaining provisions are now in effect and remain unchanged.

decision-making process on such action, decision or recommendation which foreseeably will be heard or reviewed by the County Commission, or a County board or committee. "Lobbyist" specifically includes the principal as well as any employee whose normal scope of employment includes lobbying activities. The term "Lobbyist" specifically excludes the following persons: 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; expert witnesses who provide only scientific, technical or other specialized information or testimony in public meetings; any person who only appears as a representative of a neighborhood association without compensation or reimbursement for the appearance, whether direct, indirect or contingent, to express support of or opposition to any item; any person who only appears as a representative of a not-for-profit community based organization for the purpose of requesting a grant without special compensation or reimbursement for the appearance; and employees of a principal whose normal scope of employment does not include lobbying activities.

(2) All lobbyists shall register with the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners within five (5) business days of being retained as a lobbyist or before engaging in any lobbying activities, whichever shall come first. Every person required to so register shall:

(a) Register on forms prepared by the Clerk;

(b) State under oath his or her name, business address and the name and business address of each person or entity which has employed said registrant to lobby. If the lobbyist represents a corporation, the corporation shall also be identified. Without limiting the foregoing, the lobbyist shall also identify all persons holding, directly or indirectly, a five (5) percent or more ownership interest in such corporation, partnership, or trust. Registration of all lobbyists shall be required prior to January 15 of each year and each person who withdraws as a lobbyist for a particular client shall file an appropriate notice of withdrawal. The fee for annual registration shall be four hundred and ninety dollars ($490.00). Every registrant shall be required to state the extent of any business or professional relationship with any current person described in subsection (b)(1). The registration fees required by this subsection shall be deposited by the Clerk into a separate account and shall be expended for the purpose of recording, transcribing, administration and other costs incurred in maintaining these records for availability to the public. Notwithstanding the foregoing, fifteen (15) percent of future funds generated by lobbyist registration fees after the effective date of this ordinance shall be deposited into a separate account, and shall be expended by the Ethics Commission for the purposes of educational outreach, the rendering of advisory opinions and enforcement of the provisions of Section 2-11.1(s) relating to lobbyists. There shall be no fee required for filing a notice of

withdrawal and the Board of County Commissioners may, in its discretion, waive the registration fee upon a finding of financial hardship.

(c) Prior to conducting any lobbying, all principals must file a form with the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, signed by the principal or the principal's representative, stating that the lobbyist is authorized to represent the principal. The principal and the lobbyist must also submit a joint affidavit stating that the principal has not offered and the lobbyist has not agreed to accept any contingency or success fees as defined in subsection (s)(7). Failure of a principal to file the required forms may be considered in the evaluation of a bid or proposal as evidence that a proposer or bidder is not a responsible contractor. Each principal shall file a form with the Clerk of the Board at the point in time at which a lobbyist is no longer authorized to represent the principal.

>>(d) Each lobbyist shall, within sixty (60) days after registering as a lobbyist, submit to the Clerk of the Board a certificate of completion of an ethics course offered by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust ("Ethics Course"). Lobbyists who have completed the initial Ethics Course mandated by the preceding sentence and have continuously registered as a lobbyist thereafter shall be required to complete a refresher Ethics Course every two years. Each lobbyist who has completed a refresher Ethics Course shall submit to the Clerk of the Board a certificate of completion within sixty (60) days after registering as a lobbyist. The Ethics Course shall include, but not be limited to, a review of the following topics: the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance; the Sunshine Law; and the Public Records Law. The fee for the Ethics Course shall be $100.00. The registration fees required by this subsection shall be deposited into a separate account, and shall be expended by the Ethics Commission for Ethics Courses and related costs.<<

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Section 2. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected by such invalidity.

Section 3. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance, including any sunset provision, shall become and be made a part of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida. The sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or other appropriate word.

Section 4. This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of enactment unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

PASSED AND ADOPTED:

Approved by County Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency:

Prepared by: GKS

Gerald K. Sanchez

Prime Sponsor: Commissioner Lynda Bell
Co-Sponsor: Commissioner Rebeca Sosa.