




To: Danette Perez

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

RE: Legal Opinion Regarding Cone of Silence; Meeting with Vendor

Date: September 8, 2014

You have asked me whether a Commissioner could meet with the owner of Standard Parking regarding the CM's written recommendation in Agenda Item C-5. The owner of Standard Parking has made that request, and the Commissioner wishes to know if it is permissible. The answer is yes. The Cone of Silence terminates when the CM's written recommendation to the Commission is provided to the City Clerk (i.e. placed on the agenda). Moreover, communications between a Commissioner and a potential vendor is expressly exempted from the Cone of Silence under section 2-1059(3)(b)(15) of the City Code. Finally, the potential vendor (which would include its principal) should register as a lobbyist before meeting with the Commissioner (this is based on the interpretation by the County Ethics Commission as to the County lobbyist regulations).

Parramore, Carol

From: Leen, Craig
Sent: Monday, September 08, 2014 4:14 PM
To: Parramore, Carol; Osle, Zilma
Cc: Thornton, Bridgette; Figueroa, Yaneris
Subject: FW: Meeting with Vendor

Please place in opinion folder.

Craig E. Leen, City Attorney
*Board Certified by the Florida Bar in
City, County and Local Government Law*
City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, Florida 33134
Phone: (305) 460-5218
Fax: (305) 460-5264
Email: cleen@coralgables.com

From: Leen, Craig
Sent: Monday, September 08, 2014 4:09 PM
To: Perez, Danette
Subject: Meeting with Vendor

Danette,

You have asked me whether a Commissioner could meet with the owner of Standard Parking regarding the CM's written recommendation in Agenda Item C-5. The owner of Standard Parking has made that request, and the Commissioner wishes to know if it is permissible. The answer is yes. The Cone of Silence terminates when the CM's written recommendation to the Commission is provided to the City Clerk (i.e. placed on the agenda). Moreover, communications between a Commissioner and a potential vendor is expressly exempted from the Cone of Silence under section 2-1059(3)(b)(15) of the City Code. Finally, the potential vendor (which would include its principal) should register as a lobbyist before meeting with the Commissioner (this is based on the interpretation by the County Ethics Commission as to the County lobbyist regulations).

Craig E. Leen, City Attorney
*Board Certified by the Florida Bar in
City, County and Local Government Law*
City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, Florida 33134
Phone: (305) 460-5218
Fax: (305) 460-5264
Email: cleen@coralgables.com

Parramore, Carol

From: Leen, Craig
Sent: Monday, September 08, 2014 4:14 PM
To: Parramore, Carol; Osle, Zilma
Cc: Thornton, Bridgette; Figueroa, Yaneris
Subject: FW: Meeting with Vendor

Please place in opinion folder.

Craig E. Leen, City Attorney
*Board Certified by the Florida Bar in
City, County and Local Government Law*
City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, Florida 33134
Phone: (305) 460-5218
Fax: (305) 460-5264
Email: cleen@coralgables.com

From: Leen, Craig
Sent: Monday, September 08, 2014 4:09 PM
To: Perez, Danette
Subject: Meeting with Vendor

Janette,

You have asked me whether a Commissioner could meet with the owner of Standard Parking regarding the CM's written recommendation in Agenda Item C-5. The owner of Standard Parking has made that request, and the Commissioner wishes to know if it is permissible. The answer is yes. The Cone of Silence terminates when the CM's written recommendation to the Commission is provided to the City Clerk (i.e. placed on the agenda). Moreover, communications between a Commissioner and a potential vendor is expressly exempted from the Cone of Silence under section 2-1059(3)(b)(15) of the City Code. Finally, the potential vendor (which would include its principal) should register as a lobbyist before meeting with the Commissioner (this is based on the interpretation by the County Ethics Commission as to the County lobbyist regulations).

Craig E. Leen, City Attorney
*Board Certified by the Florida Bar in
City, County and Local Government Law*
City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, Florida 33134
Phone: (305) 460-5218
Fax: (305) 460-5264
Email: cleen@coralgables.com