



From: Miriam S. Ramos, Deputy City Attorney for the City of Coral Gables

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

A blue ink signature of Craig E. Leen, written in a cursive style.

RE: Legal Opinion Regarding Campaign Contributions By Law Firms Hired As Outside Counsel To The Attorney's Office

Date: March 31, 2015

**POLICY REGARDING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS BY LAW FIRMS HIRED AS
OUTSIDE COUNSEL TO THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

Pursuant to Sec. 2-201(a), Coral Gables Municipal Code, the legal department of the City of Coral Gables, "shall be under the direction and supervision of a full-time city attorney, who shall be the chief legal officer to the city, appointed by the city commission to serve at the will of the commission." It is the policy of the City Attorney's Office to be an apolitical entity, independent and free of political influence and removed from the political process. To that end, the office does not involve itself with the political campaigns of Commission or Mayoral incumbents or the campaigns of their opposition.

As is necessary and permissible under the city code, the City Attorney's Office often delegates authority to outside counsel to assist in performing the functions of the office. See Sec. 2-201(d), Coral Gables Municipal Code. Given that such outside counsel becomes an extension of the City Attorney's Office, it is the policy of the office that outside counsel hired to represent the City of Coral Gables, also remain free of political influence and removed from the political process. To that end, the City Attorney's Office establishes this policy asking outside counsels, who are currently retained by the City, to refrain from making political contributions to the campaigns of candidates seeking the office of Commissioner or Mayor in the City of Coral Gables.

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

**POLICY REGARDING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS BY LAW FIRMS
HIRED AS OUTSIDE COUNSEL TO THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

Pursuant to Sec. 2-201(a), Coral Gables Municipal Code, the legal department of the City of Coral Gables, "shall be under the direction and supervision of a full-time city attorney, who shall be the chief legal officer to the city, appointed by the city commission to serve at the will of the commission." It is the policy of the City Attorney's Office to be an apolitical entity, independent and free of political influence and removed from the political process. To that end, the office does not involve itself with the political campaigns of Commission or Mayoral incumbents or the campaigns of their opposition.

As is necessary and permissible under the city code, the City Attorney's Office often delegates authority to outside counsel to assist in performing the functions of the office. *See* Sec. 2-201(d), Coral Gables Municipal Code. Given that such outside counsel becomes an extension of the City Attorney's Office, it is the policy of the office that outside counsel hired to represent the City of Coral Gables, also remain free of political influence and removed from the political process. To that end, the City Attorney's Office establishes this policy asking outside counsel, who are currently retained by the City, to refrain from making political contributions to the campaigns of candidates seeking the office of Commissioner or Mayor in the City of Coral Gables.

3/31/15

Herbello, Stephanie

From: Ramos, Miriam
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 3:52 PM
To: Herbello, Stephanie; Figueroa, Yanneris
Subject: Policy on campaign donations
Attachments: CAO policy on camp contributions by law firms doing bus with CAO.docx

Per Craig, to be posted as opinion.

Miriam S. Ramos, Esq.

Deputy City Attorney
City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way, 2nd Floor
Coral Gables, FL 33134
(305) 460-5218
(305) 460-5084 direct dial

PUBLIC RECORDS:

This e-mail is from the City of Coral Gables - City Attorneys Office and is intended solely for the use of the individual(s) to whom it is addressed. If you believe you received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately, delete your e-mail from your computer and do not copy or disclose it to anyone else. The State of Florida has a broad public records laws. Most written communications to or from State and Local Officials regarding State or Local business are public records available to the public upon request.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

The information contained in this transmission may be legally privileged and confidential, intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited