



# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC #147-2009

## LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti H. Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: June 5, 2009

SUBJECT: **THE COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST IS OFFERING A CANDIDATE ETHICS FORUM**

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust is offering to hold a candidate ethics forum. This is not a debate. The forum is being offered to all municipalities who are holding elections this November. The forum is being offered sometime after candidate qualifying which begins at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and ends at 5:00 p.m., on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

If the Mayor and City Commission wish to pursue the ethics forum, please notify the City Clerk who will place a discussion item on the July 15<sup>th</sup> or July 22<sup>nd</sup> Commission Agenda.

Attached for your perusal are the email invitation and a document that explains the format of the Candidate Ethics Forum.

  
JMG/REP

Cc: Hilda Fernandez, Assistant City Manager  
Tim Hemstreet, Assistant City Manager  
Robert Middaugh, Assistant City Manager  
Jose Smith, City Attorney

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**From:** Thompson, Robert A. (COE) [mailto:ROBTHOM@miamidade.gov]  
✓ **Sent:** Thursday, June 04, 2009 4:35 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Priscilla; Parcher, Robert; rgranado@hialeahfl.gov; Sheila Paul Shedd  
**Subject:** Candidates Ethics Forums

Greetings,

Attached is a document that explains the format of our Candidate Ethics Forums. Additionally, these forums are not the same as a Campaign Skills Seminar.

A moderator is selected for the event and the candidates are mailed letters directly from our office, once they have qualified. We are seeking your assistance in providing us with a location (city hall or a community center) for the event within your municipality. If you are interested in holding a Candidate Ethics Forum, please contact our office as soon as possible to discuss the details. I look forward to hearing from you and thanks for your patience understanding.

**Robert A. Thompson**  
**Commission on Ethics and Public Trust**  
**Community Outreach Coordinator**  
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Email messages are covered under such laws and thus subject to disclosure.  
All email sent and received is captured by our server and kept as a public record.*

## Candidate Ethics Forums

The Ethics Commission has sponsored forums for several years in a variety of races, featuring candidates for County Mayor, County Commission, School Board, and several municipalities. You can anticipate questions concerning a number of issues, including, but not limited to:

- General conflicts of interest
- The role of lobbyists and special interests in local government
- Accountability in public procurement
- Public campaign financing
- Ethical leadership considerations
- Ideas to improve public confidence in government

The program will follow this general schedule:

1. Welcome and Introduction of Candidates (Five minutes)
2. Opening Statements (Two minutes per candidate)
3. Questions from the Moderator (Forty-five minutes)
4. Audience Questions (Fifteen minutes)
5. Closing Statements (One minute for each candidate)