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December 8, 2010

Ms. Jane Strone
Staff Assistant
Board of Sumter County Commissioners
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Dear Ms. Strone:

Thank you for advising our office of the existence of the Fire Prevention Code Board of Appeals for Sumter County.

Florida law requires financial disclosure of all "local officers." The term "local officer" is defined to mean:

1. Every person who is elected to office in any political subdivision of the state, and every person who is appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term in such an elective office.
2. Any appointed member of any of the following boards, councils, commissions, authorities, or other bodies of any county, municipality, school district, independent special district, or other political subdivision of the state:
 - a. The governing body of the political subdivision, if appointed;
 - b. An expressway authority or transportation authority established by general law;
 - c. A community college or junior college district board of trustees;
 - d. A board having the power to enforce local code provisions;

- e. A planning or zoning board, board of adjustment, board of appeals, or other board having the power to recommend, create, or modify land planning or zoning within the political subdivision, except for citizen advisory committees, technical coordinating committees, and such other groups who only have the power to make recommendations to planning or zoning boards;
- f. A pension board or retirement board having the power to invest pension or retirement funds or the power to make a binding determination of one's entitlement to or amount of a pension or other retirement benefit; or
- g. Any other appointed member of a local government board who is required to file a statement of financial interests by the appointing authority or the enabling legislation, ordinance, or resolution creating the board.

Based upon review, it appears that members of the Fire Prevention Code Board of Appeals are **not** "local officers" for purposes of Section 112.3145, Florida Statutes. However, I would note that Section 112.3145(1)(a)2g allows the County Commission to require members to file a statement of financial interests. Please let me know if the County will impose the local requirement upon these members.

If we may be of additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,



Shirley A. Taylor
Program Administrator

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