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OCT 20 2006

Board of County Commissioners
Manatee County

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*Rec 10-26-06
MLM*

MANATEE COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Tedd N. Williams Jr., County Attorney

October 20, 2006

Ms. Mary Lou Smith
6309 Porter Avenue
East Lansing, MI 48823

James A. Minix, Chief Assistant County Attorney
Patricia McVoy, Senior Assistant County Attorney*
Maureen S. Sikora, Senior Assistant County Attorney*
Robert M. Eschenfelder, Assistant County Attorney
Rodney C. Wade, Assistant County Attorney*
William E. Clague, Assistant County Attorney
James R. Cooney, Assistant County Attorney
Sarah A. Schenk, Assistant County Attorney*
Jason C. Henbest, Associate County Attorney

Re: Trailer Estates
CAO File No. 1014B-018

Dear Ms. Smith:

Your letter of October 18, 2006 to Commissioner Ron Getman was forwarded to me for response. You included with your letter a copy of the minutes of a meeting of the Trailer Estates Board of Trustees (the minutes) and an e-mail from Jack Gaskins, the Director of the Florida Department of Community Affairs (the e-mail).

You questioned the interpretation in the minutes of a previous memorandum from Mr. Eschenfelder in my office (the memorandum) where the minutes characterized the memorandum as stating that "the Trustees are within their powers according to the Special Act Charter...". I agree that the minutes do not correctly characterize the memorandum. Regarding the e-mail and the memorandum, no statement in either document is inconsistent with the other.

As you have been previously informed, the issues between you and the Trustees are private legal issues. The County Attorney's Office has no legal authority to give you an opinion on the propriety of the actions or omissions of the Board of Trustees. If you question or wish to challenge the actions of the Board of Trustees, you have every right to do so on your own. If you need legal counsel, you must make your own arrangements to have private legal counsel. Neither the Board of County Commissioners, Commissioner Getman, nor the Office of the County Attorney has legal authority to intervene in this matter.

Sincerely,

Tedd N. Williams, Jr.
County Attorney

TNW/mlk

cc: Board of County Commissioners
Robert M. Eschenfelder, Assistant County Attorney

*Board Certified City, County & Local Government Law