
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:50 AM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Commissioner Xavier Suarez (DIST 7), Miami-Dade County Commission (Gifts) INQ 15-214

INQ 15-214 Suarez

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 4:57 PM
To: Trueba, Valerie L. (DIST7)
Cc: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Perez, Martha D. (COE); Sanchez, Gerald (CAO)
Subject: RE: INQ 15-214 Commissioner Xavier Suarez (DIST 7), Miami-Dade County Commission (Gifts)

Ms. Trueba:

I need to add an addendum to my response to your inquiry. While there is no prohibition under County ordinance to the acceptance of such a gift by a Commissioner, I do have a concern about Section 112.3148(4), Florida Statutes, which is under the jurisdiction of the Florida Commission on Ethics. That statute prohibits a reporting individual (which would include a County Commissioner) or procurement employee from "knowing accepting, directly or indirectly, a gift from a vendor doing business with the reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency, a political committee as defined in s. 106.011, or a lobbyist who lobbies the reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency..." I understand that UM has a contractual relationship with Jackson Health Systems, which is part of County government. I am concerned that, if UM is considered a "vendor doing business with" the County, the acceptance of a gift from UM would be prohibited under that section. The provision is not been in existence very long, and I cannot give a definitive interpretation of it because the Florida Ethics Commission enforces it. I did want to bring it to your attention, and would be happy to discuss further this with you, though to get a definitive interpretation one would need to connect with the FCOE staff.

Joe Centorino

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 3:36 PM
To: Trueba, Valerie L. (DIST7) <VTRUEBA@miamidade.gov>
Cc: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <GDIAZGR@miamidade.gov>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <perezmd@miamidade.gov>; Sanchez, Gerald (CAO) <gks@miamidade.gov>
Subject: INQ 15-214 Commissioner Xavier Suarez (DIST 7), Miami-Dade County Commission (Gifts)

Ms. Trueba:

Thank you for your inquiry on behalf of Commissioner Suarez. I think I can assume that there is no County function involved with this invitation to attend the UM football game in the President's Box; and no purpose for the invitation other than to invite the Commissioner to come and enjoy the game; and it does not relate to any pending issue in the County. Under such circumstances, Commissioner Suarez may accept the proffered gift, but if the value exceeds \$100 he must report it as a gift on the State's quarterly gift disclosure form.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Centorino

Executive Director and General Counsel
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
19 W. Flagler Street, Suite 820
Miami, FL 33130
Tel: (305) 579-2594
Fax: (305) 579-0273
ethics.miamidade.gov



From: Trueba, Valerie L. (DIST7)
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 3:12 PM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE) <CENTORI@miamidade.gov>
Cc: Padron, Joanne (DIST7) <joannep@miamidade.gov>; 'Xavier Suarez' <xaviersuarezsq@aol.com>
Subject: Question from Commissioner Suarez

Mr. Centorino,

I hope you are doing well. Commissioner Suarez wanted to double check that the following is permissible under the County rules: UM has invited the Commissioner to attend this weekend's football game in the President's box. They have provided the cost of the tickets and parking pass. All the Commissioner has to do is report the gift correct?

Thank you!

VALERIE LAUREN TRUEBA, ESQ.
Legislative Aide

Commissioner Xavier L. Suarez, District 7
Downtown Office
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 Northwest 1st Street, Suite 220
Miami, Florida 33128
Office: (305) 375-5680

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 10:28 AM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Cc: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Perez, Martha D. (COE)
Subject: File with INQ 15-214

From: Trueba, Valerie L. (DIST7)
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 9:02 PM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE) <CENTORI@miamidade.gov>
Subject: Fwd: CITT

Mr. Centorino,

Please see below for the Commissioner's response to your recommendation.

-

Valerie Trueba

Begin forwarded message:

From: Xavier Suarez <xaviersuarezsq@aol.com>
Date: September 18, 2015 at 7:07:43 PM EDT
To: <VTRUEBA@miamidade.gov>
Subject: Re: CITT

I think I will reimburse UM, even though I am only going to be able to get face time with the President to discuss the Pine Rocklands and sea level rise...please copy Joe C with this email...
xs

-----Original Message-----

From: Trueba, Valerie L. (DIST7) (DIST7) <VTRUEBA@miamidade.gov>
To: Xavier Suarez <xaviersuarezsq@aol.com>
Sent: Fri, Sep 18, 2015 7:00 pm
Subject: Re: CITT

The first email said you were in the clear, then he added an addendum answer. See below - I copy/pasted.

Ms. Trueba:

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Sincerely,

Joseph M. Centorino

Executive Director and General Counsel
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ethics.miamidade.gov

On Sep 18, 2015, at 6:44 PM, Xavier Suarez <xaviersuarezsq@aol.com> wrote:

thnx...did you get any reply from Joe Centorino to my inquiry about the UM game tickets?
xs

-----Original Message-----

From: Trueba, Valerie L. (DIST7) (DIST7) <VTRUEBA@miamidade.gov>
To: 'Xavier Suarez' <xaviersuarezsq@aol.com>
Cc: Padron, Joanne (DIST7) (DIST7) <joanep@miamidade.gov>; Gonzalez, Ricardo (DIST7) (DIST7) <reg@miamidade.gov>
Sent: Fri, Sep 18, 2015 4:25 pm
Subject: CITT

Commissioner,

The CITT memo is on your desk. All the attachments of the legal ordinances and statutes are clipped with it for your review.

Thanks and have a nice weekend.

VALERIE LAUREN TRUEBA, ESQ.
Legislative Aide

Commissioner Xavier L. Suarez, District 7
Downtown Office
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 Northwest 1st Street, Suite 220
Miami, Florida 33128
Office: (305) 375-5680