

Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)

From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 10:51 AM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Juan Kuryla, Miami-Dade County Seaport Director (Exploitation/Nepotism) INQ 16-293

INQ 16-293 Kuryla

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

From: Kuryla, Juan (Seaport)
Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2016 11:05 AM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE) <Joseph.Centorino@miamidade.gov>
Cc: Turay, Radia (COE) <Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <perezmd@miamidade.gov>; Sanchez, Gerald (CAO) <Gerald.Sanchez@miamidade.gov>; Kirtley, Eddie (CAO) <Eddie.Kirtley@miamidade.gov>; Rolando Aedo <Rolando@gmcb.com>; Webb, Hydi (Seaport) <Hydi.Webb@miamidade.gov>
Subject: Re: INQ 16-293 Juan Kuryla, Miami-Dade County Seaport Director (Exploitation/Nepotism)

Joe: Thank you for your response below. In an abundance of caution and to avoid any appearance of favoritism as a result of the Port's relationship with the Bureau, my son will not be interning with the Bureau.

As always, I appreciate your advice and thoughts on these matters.

Regards,

Juan

> On Dec 27, 2016, at 5:01 PM, Centorino, Joseph (COE) <Joseph.Centorino@miamidade.gov> wrote:
>
> Juan,
> I do understand that as a significant difference. Although it may not be prohibited under the Ethics Code, it does create more of a problematic appearance if all of the internships are a result of a decision on your part to fund them, and your son has received one of them. Even if his hiring did not happen through your intervention, the appearance that the decision to hire him may have been influenced by your role in funding the program is unmistakable. Your discomfort is appropriate.

> Joe

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Kuryla, Juan (Seaport)
> Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2016 4:55 PM
> To: Centorino, Joseph (COE) <Joseph.Centorino@miamidade.gov>
> Cc: Webb, Hydi (Seaport) <Hydi.Webb@miamidade.gov>; Rolando Aedo <Rolando@gmcb.com>; Turay, Radia (COE) <Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <perezmd@miamidade.gov>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>; Sanchez, Gerald (CAO) <Gerald.Sanchez@miamidade.gov>; Kirtley, Eddie (CAO) <Eddie.Kirtley@miamidade.gov>
> Subject: RE: INQ 16-293 Juan Kuryla, Miami-Dade County Seaport Director (Exploitation/Nepotism)

>
> Thank you Joe for your quick response. Just as a point of clarification, the funds contributed by the Port to the Bureau are designated toward the Cruise Miami Program and not to partially fund the internship program. I am copying Rolando Aedo to confirm this. If this this is the case I do not feel comfortable with my son interning at the Bureau.

>
> Regards,

>
> Juan

>
>
> Juan M. Kuryla

>
> 1015 North America Way, 2nd Floor
> Miami, Florida 33132
> Office: (305)347-4844
> Mobile: (786)299-3060
> www.PortMiami.biz

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>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
> Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2016 3:43 PM
> To: Kuryla, Juan (Seaport)
> Cc: Webb, Hydi (Seaport); Rolando Aedo; Turay, Radia (COE); Perez, Martha D. (COE); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Sanchez, Gerald (CAO); Kirtley, Eddie (CAO)
> Subject: INQ 16-293 Juan Kuryla, Miami-Dade County Seaport Director
> (Exploitation/Nepotism)

>
> Juan,

>
> You have inquired concerning whether there may be any ethical prohibitions in connection with your son's acceptance of a temporary paid internship with the Greater Miami Convention and Visitor's Bureau ("Bureau"). You have related that this has come about as a result of his enrollment in FIU's Hospitality Program, under which he is required to perform 1000-1200 hours of work at a hospitality organization, as a condition of graduation. The Bureau has a close association with the Seaport, the agency that you direct, and receives funding from the Seaport, which partially funds the internship program.

>
> As explained to me by your assistant, you have had no role in the selection of your son as an intern with the Bureau, and will have no supervisory authority over him in that capacity. Your son will not be interacting with the Seaport on any basis whereby his employment would be affected by any decision of yours. Based on the fact that funding is received by the Bureau from the County would make the Bureau, in effect, a County contractor, and the fact that you have significant dealings with the Bureau as the Seaport director, it is appropriate that you have made this inquiry. However, it is my assumption and understanding that whatever role you may have played in the funding provided to the Bureau was unrelated in any way to your son's application for or the offer made to him to be a paid intern with the Bureau.

>
> Under these circumstances, I do not think it would create any ethical violation for your son to accept the paid internship. You have apparently done nothing in your role as Director that has influenced his acceptance into that program; and had no decision-making authority over his appointment or compensation, nor will you exercise any administrative authority over the terms of his employment as a paid intern at the Bureau. If you had used your

position to create this opportunity for your son, it could be considered an exploitation of official position under Section 2-11.1(g) of the County Ethics Code. Under the facts as I understand them, you have not been in a position to exercise any such influence.

>
> Under Section 112.3135, Florida Statutes, as well as under the County Nepotism Policy (Adopted 7/20/07), there would be a potential problem if you were in a position to appoint, employ, promote, or advance, or advocate for appointment, employment, promotion or advancement, in or to a position in an agency over which you exercise jurisdiction or control, a close relative such as a son or daughter. Based upon the information I have received regarding your son's appointment to the position with the Bureau, these policies would not be applicable to the circumstances of your son's receipt of the paid internship.

>
> Therefore, it is my opinion that your son's acceptance of this temporary paid internship would not violate any provisions of the County Ethics Code or other applicable county policies.

>
> Sincerely,

>
> Joe Centorino

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> 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

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Kuryla, Juan (Seaport)
> Sent: Friday, December 23, 2016 6:53 PM
> To: Centorino, Joseph (COE) <Joseph.Centorino@miamidade.gov>
> Cc: Webb, Hydi (Seaport) <Hydi.Webb@miamidade.gov>; Rolando Aedo
> <Rolando@gmcbv.com>
> Subject:

>
> Good afternoon Joe:

>
> Thank you for taking the time this week to speak with Hydi regarding contact information at one of our cruise lines. On a different subject, I want to get your thoughts on a temporary internship my son, Matthew, is interested in doing with the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau ("Bureau").

>
> Matthew (22) is enrolled in FIU's Hospitality program. A requirement for graduation is 1000-1200 hours of work at a hospitality related organization. He has been offered the opportunity to do a paid internship (around \$12 per hour) from January 2017 through June/July 2017.

>
> As you maybe aware, the Port works closely with the Bureau in its Cruise Miami program and partially funds this initiative. Due to this, I am respectfully seeking your opinion if it would be a conflict for Matthew to do his Internship at the Bureau.

>
> Matthew would not be engaged in any of the Bureau's programs with the Port and report to a Bureau staffer.
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> I am taking the liberty of copying Rolando Aedo, Executive VP for the Bureau in the event you have any question for the Bureau as well as Hydi Webb who oversees the Port's Cruise Miami program. Hydi, as you know, is the Port's Assistant Director for Business Initiatives/Development.
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> I look forward to your thoughts and advice regarding this matter.
>
> Regards,
>
> Juan