

Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)

From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 1:46 PM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Matthew Pigatt, Commissioner, City of Opa-locka (Gift Solicitation) INQ 17-34

INQ 17-34 Pigatt

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 12:55 PM
To: Turay, Radia (COE) <Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <perezmd@miamidade.gov>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>
Subject: INQ 17-34 Matthew Pigatt, Commissioner, City of Opa-locka (Gift Solicitation)

Matthew Pigatt, Commissioner for the City of Opa-locka, inquired concerning possible limitations on his doing fundraising in connection with his position at Florida Memorial University, as well as for 100 Black Men of South Florida, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of which he is a member. He is employed at Florida Memorial as Scholarship Coordinator and it is part of the scope of his employment at the university that he engage in fundraising on behalf of the scholarship programs there.

I advised Commissioner Pigatt that, in regard to his solicitation on behalf of the 100 Black Men organization, that he is explicitly authorized to do so since Section 2-11.1(g) of the Ethics Code specifically permits such solicitation of gifts for a 501(c)(3) organization where the officials receives no compensation as a result of the solicitation. Such solicited gifts are not considered as gifts under the County Ordinance. In these circumstances it would be permissible for him to utilize his official title in fundraising. In regard to solicitations for Florida Memorial University, his employer, which are connected to his paid employment by Florida Memorial, it is more problematical, since, although Florida Memorial is a non-profit organization, his salary there arguably provides him with compensation for his solicitation of gifts to the university. Under these circumstances, I advised him that he should not, in any way, refer to his title as an Opa-locka City Commissioner in connection with such solicitations.

Joseph M. Centorino

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