

Meyers, Robert (COE)

JNQ 05-159

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2005 3:12 PM
To: Mazzorana, Shanda (ETSD)
Subject: RE: Commission on Ethics Opinions

Shanda,

I apologize for not replying sooner. Let me address each of your questions:

- 1) Complimentary passes – If it costs money to attend a trade show and County employees are receiving complimentary passes, it doesn't matter whether the passes are given in bulk. If the value of a pass exceeds \$100, it should be reported.
- 2) Vendors are not allowed to pay for any travel or travel-related expenses of County employees. If there is an admission charge and that charge is waived for the County employee, then the ordinance has been violated due to the fact the vendor has granted free admission to the employee. The way around that is for the County to reimburse the vendor after the travel has been completed.
- 3) Food consumed at one seating does not have to be disclosed. If door prizes are given to County employees and the cost of the prize exceeds \$100, it should be reported by the employee.
- 4) Wearing or using branded items from vendors can be accepted. The only restrictions that apply to vendors occur within the context of employee travel. Once again, as long as these items do not exceed the threshold amount, they can be accepted and do not have to be reported.

Robert

From: Mazzorana, Shanda (ETSD)
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2005 3:34 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: DiPrima, Adrienne (ETSD)
Subject: FW: Commission on Ethics Opinions

Robert,

Below is a list of items for which we would welcome your input.

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

From: DiPrima, Adrienne (ETSD)
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2005 9:23 AM
To: Mazzorana, Shanda (ETSD)
Subject: RE: Commission on Ethics Opinions

i would like to get opinions on these situations:

- where "complimentary" passes to multi-vendor trade shows are given in bulk - not specifically to county employees, but to anyone who answers a survey or signs up on a web site, or where large numbers of passes are given to the county directly - when these passes are the norm for attendance at these shows and no quid-pro-quo is implied or anticipated
- where a county employee is granted free admission to a vendor seminar in exchange for presenting a topic session and if the county is required to pay travel&living expenses for the employee
- where special vendor seminars relating to products not currently in use by the county are given free to large groups of county and/or non-county employees, and food (continental breakfasts are most common) is served and/or door prizes are given at random
- where vendor donates "branded" advertising merchandise (eg; shirts, caps, binders, pens, etc) for use in

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charitable fund-raising events being conducted by county agencies
are these considered conflicts of interest? are they reportable? can they be accepted?

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

From: Mazzorana, Shanda (ETSD)

Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2005 1:06 PM

To: (ETSD) All Staff

Subject: Commission on Ethics Opinions

I would like to share the most recent opinions generated by the Commission on Ethics (COE) in response to some of the most frequently asked subjects in public service. This information is intended to provide you with a framework for professional acceptance and to increase your access to ethics issues in the County.