

The Commission found the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance permits county employees to solicit funds to underwrite the 2001 COMTO conference. Section 2-11.1(e)(2)(e) exempts gifts solicited by county employees on behalf of the county in performance of their official duties are exempt from the definition of gifts. Since the conference is co-sponsored by the county, county employees may solicit funds to underwrite the cost of the event.

This opinion construes the Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance only and is not applicable to any conflict under state law. Please contact the State of Florida Commission on Ethics if you have any questions regarding possible conflicts under state law.

If you have any questions regarding the opinion, please call the undersigned at (305) 579-2954 or Ardyth Walker, Staff General Counsel at (305) 579-2653.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Meyers", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ROBERT MEYERS
Executive Director



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STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL

April 25, 2001

Melissa Rolle-Scott
Chapter President
Conference of Minority Transportation
Officials
P.O. Box 012386
Miami, FL 33101

RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 01-40

Dear Ms. Scott:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on April 24, 2001 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an opinion regarding solicitation of contributions from past and present county vendors to underwrite a national conference.

In your letter, you advised the Commission that the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) and Miami-Dade County are hosting the 2001 Conference in Miami. In order to host the conference and defray the costs to the county, the participating county departments would like their employees to solicit funds to underwrite the conference. The employees will solicit the funds on county time using county resources. All funds will be forwarded to the national organization for conference purposes.