

Meyers, Robert (COE)

INQ 06-01

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Friday, January 06, 2006 9:53 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Inquiry

Alex Munoz from the County Manager's Office called and asked about a golf tournament the County is sponsoring for County employees to benefit the United Way. The employees are required to pay a fee to play in the tournament but may receive trinkets and other small gifts for participating. The County created a committee to handle the logistics of the golf tournament, including seeking local sponsors. One of the main sponsors is a prominent lobbyist, not disclosed by Mr. Munoz. The question from Mr. Munoz is whether the County can pursue other sponsors, who will help defray some of the costs and may have their names on items that will be given to those who play in tournament.

I spoke with Mike Murawski and Ardyth Walker and we concluded that the County could solicit others for the golf tournament due to the fact this would be considered official county position (fundraising for United Way) and such activities could be undertaken on County time. I recommended to Mr. Munoz that an appeal to third parties for financial support should be as broadly-based as possible and should not simply target companies doing business with Miami-Dade County. Furthermore, there is no provision in the Code of Ethics Ordinance that would prohibit a lobbyist from being one of the sponsors. Finally, any County employee who receives gifts, merchandise or prizes that exceed \$100 should report this in accordance with the gift reporting rules.

Robert Meyers
Date of opinion – 12/23/05