

Meyers, Robert (COE)

JNO 01-02

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2006 2:10 PM
To: Floyd, Trena (Airport)
Subject: RE: Need a Ruling

Hi Trena,

Happy New Year to you and thank you for the kinds words about the conference. As you know, conferences are a great deal of work and as much as I would like to hold an annual media ethics conference, I don't envision it happening.

I consulted with Ardyth Walker about your questions. I'm not certain what you mean by a site inspection, but I assume it has nothing to do with your responsibilities for MIA but rather part of the work you do with the National Black Public Relations Society. You can accept a ticket to Southwest to travel to Philadelphia, but I would advise you to report the ticket as a gift – assuming the value of the ticket exceeds \$100. As far as Delta Airlines is concerned, the same rule would apply. The fact that Delta may fly in and out of MIA has no bearing on my opinion. I don't believe Delta is a vendor as defined in the county's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, which is significant because a vendor is prohibited from covering travel expenses for County employees. If we substitute American Airlines for Delta, it might yield a different result, as American has a different relationship with the Aviation Department than the other carriers. Fortunately, you aren't asking me about American, so we can deal with that at a later date – if it ever arises.

If you have any follow-up questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers

From: Floyd, Trena (Airport)
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2005 9:33 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Need a Ruling

Hello Robert:

I really enjoyed the Ethics workshop held last week at the Kovens Center. I hope that will become an annual event.

As I stated last week, I need a ruling regarding accepting airline tickets from sponsors of my organization. I am the Vice-President of Programming for the National Black Public Relations Society. We are a 501(c)3 organization based in Los Angeles, California. We receive a lot of sponsorships through our members, who represent most of the fortune 500 companies. We also receive donations from airlines in the form of airline tickets for our Board members and participants for our annual conference.

I am requesting a ruling on whether I can accept the airline ticket(s) from any of the carriers. Currently, Southwest Airlines is one of our sponsors and is offering to give us tickets for our site inspection in Philadelphia. Since Southwest Airlines is not a carrier operating from Miami International Airport, is it okay to accept the airline ticket?

Also, please give me a ruling regarding an airline that may fly from MIA. For example, Delta Airlines is also a sponsor of our organization. Would I be able to use an airline ticket from that company to conduct our organization's business?

1/3/2006

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at (305) 876-0955. Please note that I will be on vacation the week of December 26, returning on January 3.

I hope you have a wonderful holiday and a prosperous New Year!

Trenae V. Floyd
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