

Meyers, Robert (COE)

ING 06-14

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2006 3:20 PM
To: 'Lucas, Theodore G.'
Subject: U.S Communities Advisory Board meeting

Ted,

I must have deleted your e-mail concerning your participation as member of the Advisory Board of U.S. Communities (USC), but I did retain the hard copy and I am using that to provide you with an opinion. You advised me in your e-mail that U.S. Communities is holding an annual meeting of the Advisory Board and USC wishes to pay for your travel and travel-related expenses. Under the county's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, which is applicable to the Public Health Trust, a vendor, bidder, contractor or service bidder is barred from paying travel expenses of any official or employee of Miami-Dade County. The question to answer is whether U.S. Communities meets the definition of vendor, bidder, contractor or service provider. You describe U.S. Communities as a non-profit organization formed and sponsored by public associations/organization and, in essence, serves as a government purchasing alliance to benefit public organizations by using its leverage to create dollar savings and administrative efficiencies. It is my understanding that public organizations do not contract directly with U.S. Communities nor do they purchase goods and products from U.S. Communities. This being the case, USC is not a vendor under the County Code and USC can cover your transportation, lodging and other expenses associated with your attendance at the annual meeting.

If you wish to discuss in my detail, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers
Executive Director

Meyers, Robert (COE)

From: Lucas, Theodore G. [TLucas@um-jmh.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2006 7:42 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: Brown, Terry (JMH Logistics)
Subject: U.S. Communities Advisory Board meeting
Attachments: Scan1156.pdf

Robert: Per our phone conversation on Friday, this is to briefly describe my participation as a member of the Advisory Board of U.S. Communities and my attendance, at U.S. Communities' expense, at the two-day annual meeting of the Advisory Board. The purpose of my consultation is to determine whether it is permissible for USC to pay for the transportation, lodging and meals corresponding to my attendance at the annual meeting.

Basic information from the U.S. Communities (USC) website at www.uscommunities.org is attached above.

USC is a non-profit organization formed and sponsored by the following public associations/organizations: National Association of Counties (NACO), National League of Cities (NLC), United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO), and the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP). It is a "Governmental Purchasing Alliance" with the collective purpose of leveraging the volume purchasing power of public/governmental entities for dollar savings and administrative efficiency. Use of the public contracts sponsored by USC (awarded by county/city purchasing departments in cooperation with USC) is entirely voluntary.

The organization is guided by an Advisory Board consisting of the directors and managers of public purchasing departments from around the United States. Board participation creates no obligation on the members' public entity employer to utilize any USC contract, and members serve with the explicit knowledge/consent of their employer. The Board engages in monthly phone conferences and meets once annually. Board members receive no compensation whatsoever.

In addition to the website noted above, you may also obtain information from Mr. Steve Hamill of U.S. Communities at shamill@uscommunities.org.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please advise if I can answer any questions. TED

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