

Meyers, Robert (COE)

JAG 07-182

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2007 2:05 PM
To: LaPradd, Charles (DP&Z)
Subject: RE: Meeting with VP of Agriculture

Charles:

The preferred course of action in this case is for you to take a commercial flight to Gainesville and have the County cover the expenses associated with this trip. I generally recommend against County officials and/or employees flying on planes chartered by and paid for by third parties. However, since Brooks Tropicals, Inc., the company paying for the flight is not a County vendor, there is no violation of the County's ethics ordinance if you were to go on this flight. If you decide to take the chartered flight, you must report the value of the flight as a gift.

If you have any questions concerning the above, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director
 Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
 (305) 350-0613

From: LaPradd, Charles (DP&Z)
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2007 4:05 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: FW: Meeting with VP of Agriculture

Robert:

Per our conversation today, the question is as follows:

Is it appropriate for me to travel with some representatives of Miami-Dade's avocado industry to Gainesville, FL on December 13, 2007 by chartered plane paid for by Brooks Tropicals, Inc. (the County's largest marketer of grower/avocados) to lobby Dr. Jimmy Cheek, Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Florida to conduct the needed research to eradicate the Redbay Ambrosia Beetle that is moving down the state and has been shown to kill avocado trees. Avocados are the largest segment of the county's tropical fruit industry, with more than 8000 acres in production and several hundred commercial growers. To my knowledge the county conducts no business with Brooks Tropicals, and the trip is to benefit all avocado growers in the county not just Brooks Tropicals.

Also, I will separate from the group at mid-day and meet with Geoffrey E. Dahl, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Animal Sciences University of Florida, to discuss UF's participation in the Miami International Agriculture and Cattle Show, a Miami-Dade County event, and then join them for the flight home.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this matter.

From: Jose Rossignoli [mailto:JoseR@brookstropicals.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 4:14 PM
To: phil3260@bellsouth.net; LaPradd, Charles (DP&Z)
Subject: Meeting with VP of Agriculture

Dear Mark and Charles,

12/4/2007

Dr. Jimmy Cheek, UF V.P. for Agriculture, has agreed to meet with us to discuss the Redbay Ambrosia Beetle on **Thursday, December 13th** between **9-11am**. He's requested the Dean for Research to be at the meeting.

Best regards,



Jose E. Rossignoli

Director of National Sales

Homestead, Florida 33090

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