

Meyers, Robert (COE)

INQ 08-04

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2008 3:36 PM
To: 'thilton-rorar@stateandfed.com'
Subject: RE: lobbyist reporting question

Ms. Hilton-Rorar:

State law prohibits lobbyists from giving gifts to public officials exceeding \$100. To arrive at the actual value of the gift, you have to calculate the cost of purchasing the table and then divide it by the number of guests at the table and then you have to take in account the portion of gift that is meant to be a charitable contribution. For example, if the cost of a seat is \$150, but \$100 of the \$150 is earmarked as a charitable contribution, then the gift to the public official is only \$50 and can be accepted. The portion of the gift that does not go to charity should be reported as a food and entertainment expense – assuming food was served and/or entertainment was provided.

If my explanation isn't sufficiently clear, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,

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

From: thilton-rorar@stateandfed.com [mailto:thilton-rorar@stateandfed.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2008 11:08 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: lobbyist reporting question

Mr. Meyers,

Mr. Keith Knowles referred me to you. I have a question about lobbyist reporting.

If a lobbyist buys a table at a non-profit function and invites a public official to sit at that table, is this permitted? If so, how would it be reported on the lobbyist's expenditure report?

Thank you. I hope to hear from you soon.

Tracee Hilton-Rorar, Esq. State Researcher

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