

**Meyers, Robert (COE)**

INQ 08-109

**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2008 2:58 PM  
**To:** Lievano, Maria (DIST12)  
**Subject:** RE: opinion request

Maria,

Thank you for your request for opinion. As I understand it, your question is whether you can solicit donations from co-workers and commissioners to a charity in your personal capacity. Based on prior opinions that the Ethics Commission has issued on this subject, you may solicit County officials and employees on behalf of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society as long as you do not use County resources or your title in furtherance of your solicitation efforts. Furthermore, you must make it clear to those whom you solicit – especially those who work with you – that such donations are voluntary. Also, if you solicit employees, try not to raise funds during the workday. In other words, make requests of your co-workers before or after work, during breaks or at lunch. Finally, I would recommend that you do not use the County e-mail system as a vehicle for seeking contributions. A preferable approach would be sending your appeals to the private e-mail addresses of the County employees you wish to solicit.

If you have any additional questions, 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:** Lievano, Maria (DIST12)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2008 12:57 PM  
**To:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Subject:** opinion request

Robert:

I am thinking of joining The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team In Training (LLSTNT), an endurance sports training program to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, a 501(c)(3). By joining the team, I am expected to raise funds for leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma research and patient services. As a member of the team and upon completion of my fundraising goal towards this charity, I will receive lodging and airfare to the Nike Women's Marathon in San Francisco. Prior to commencing my fundraising efforts, I wanted your opinion on whether I, in a personal capacity, can solicit donations from my co-workers and commissioners to meet my fundraising goal of \$4,100. I would appreciate a response from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Maria Lievano Cruz

Maria Lievano Cruz, Esq.  
Chief of Staff

6/13/2008

Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
Miami-Dade County District 12  
305-375-1383 Office  
305-372-6109 Fax  
786-295-4858 Cell