

Meyers, Robert (COE)

JNO 11-81

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2011 11:27 AM
To: Magill, Ron (MDPR)
Subject: RE: Gift Declaration

Dear Mr. Magill:

Thank you for your e-mail and I appreciate your desire to comply with the applicable County rules. Unfortunately, notifying me of the gift is not sufficient under the County Code. You must fill out a Quarterly Gift Disclosure Form and submit it to the Clerk of the Board. You can find the form by going to our homepage: www.miamidadeethics.com and click on Frequently Used Forms. Scroll down to the Public Officers and Employees heading and click on quarterly gift disclosure. Please get it notarized and return it to the Clerk of the Board. You have to submit the form by the end of next quarter or September 30, 2011 – assuming you received the gift during the second quarter of 2011.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Thanks,

Robert Meyers

From: Magill, Ron (MDPR)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2011 8:53 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: Kaminsky, Eric (MDPR)
Subject: Gift Declaration

Dear Mr. Meyers,

In keeping with Miami-Dade County policy requiring the declaration of any gift valued over \$100 received as a result of one's position in the County, I am submitting this notification to you. I had contacted my division human resources director to request if there was any specific form I needed to fill out and after he contacted the department human resources representative was informed that a formal notification to you was all that was needed, hence this email.

Last month, after a series of meetings, I was able to convince the television show "Burn Notice" to use Zoo Miami as a location to film for an upcoming episode. In exchange, I was able to negotiate a \$10,000 location fee that was deposited in the zoo's Conservation Fund which is used to support conservation efforts around the world. As is often the case with these large film companies, their schedules changed and there was always something that was needed at the last minute. Though I was able to get some zoo staff to work overtime, which was all reimbursed by the film company (in addition to the \$10,000 location fee), there were times that I was not able to get anyone due to the last minute changes and ended up working two 16 hour days (including my normal day off) in order to make the shoot possible. When the company found out that I did not get paid overtime due to my job basis status, they offered to pay me separately as they realized the extraordinary amount of time I was putting in to insure that their shoot was successful. Though my outside employment statement lists working as a consultant with the film industry as part of what I receive extra income for, I did not feel that it would be appropriate in this instance since it was a shoot at the zoo and could therefore be perceived as a conflict so I thanked them for the gesture but politely told them I could not accept the money.

5/20/2011

Last week, I received a very nice "thank you" note along with a director's chair, identical to the ones used on the film set, with my name and the zoo logo embroidered on it. Though I don't know the exact value of the chair, I feel fairly confident it is valued at over \$100.00. Because it is a custom ordered and personalized item, it cannot be returned. Therefore, I am keeping it and wanted to insure that I am following proper procedure by officially notifying you. For the record, the Burn Notice production company is not a vendor at the zoo and we do no official business with them other than the location fees I have been able to get them to donate to our Conservation Fund.

Please let me know if there is anything else that I may need to do to insure I am in compliance with all ethics policies as they may apply to this situation. Thank you in advance for your opinion.

Sincerely,

Ron Magill

Zoo Communications & Media Relations Director

Zoo Miami

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Miami, FL 33177

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