

## Frigo, Victoria (COE)

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**From:** Frigo, Victoria (COE)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2012 3:44 PM  
**To:** 'rodneyrodharris@yahoo.com'  
**Cc:** Centorino, Joseph (COE)  
**Subject:** Youth Focus Group (INQ 12-222)

Councilman Harris,

As we discussed today, the County Ethics Code does not prevent you from using your discretionary office funds from the City of Miami Gardens to purchase refreshments for a government-sponsored event.

We understand that you receive public funds from the City of Miami Gardens in your official capacity as a Miami Gardens council member. You have complete discretion to use the office funds for any legitimate public purpose.

A legitimate public purpose would include providing refreshments for a "Teen Focus Group" event to be held in Miami Gardens and designed to build relationships between local teens and law enforcement. The event is being sponsored by the Office of Prevention and Victim Services, a division of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). You are employed as a senior probation officer with a different division of the DJJ. You will not personally benefit or be enhanced by the donation you are making to the event using city funds.

Since not all donations may serve a valid public purpose, in the future you may wish to obtain the approval of your city council before expending city funds on activities that may be questioned. Additionally, feel free to call our office if you would like to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,

**VICTORIA FRIGO, STAFF ATTORNEY**

Phone: 305 350-0601

Fax: 305 579-0273



19 West Flagler St., Suite 820  
Miami, FL 33130

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**From:** rodney harris [<mailto:rodneyrodharris@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 11, 2012 1:46 PM

**To:** Ethics (COE)

**Subject:** Fw: Youth Focus Group

Please be advised that I am the newly elected Councilman in Miami Gardens, Rodney Harris. A Youth Focus Group is being sponsored by the Department of Juvenile Justice on Thursday December 13, 2012. I am also an employee of the department. I have been asked to provide refreshments for the Focus Group. Please advise if this is ethical and can be done. See below emails for details of the event. Please advise as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Rodney Harris

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** TaShek Hamlette <[thamlette@miamigardens-fl.gov](mailto:thamlette@miamigardens-fl.gov)>  
**To:** "[rodneYRODHARRIS@yahoo.com](mailto:rodneYRODHARRIS@yahoo.com)" <[rodneYRODHARRIS@yahoo.com](mailto:rodneYRODHARRIS@yahoo.com)>; Rodney Harris <[rharris@miamigardens-fl.gov](mailto:rharris@miamigardens-fl.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ronetta Taylor <[taylorr@miamigardens-fl.gov](mailto:taylorr@miamigardens-fl.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 5, 2012 3:25 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Youth Focus Group

Hello Councilman, please see the highlighted from Ronetta. Ethics E-mail address is [ethics@miamidade.gov](mailto:ethics@miamidade.gov)

Thank you,  
TaShek Hamlette

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**From:** Ronetta Taylor  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 05, 2012 2:12 PM  
**To:** TaShek Hamlette  
**Subject:** RE: Youth Focus Group

TaShek please convey to Councilman Harris that he needs to get an opinion from Ethics in Public Trust to ensure he can use taxpayers dollars for this event. He need to provide Ethics with all the relevant details. Thanks.

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**From:** TaShek Hamlette  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 05, 2012 2:04 PM  
**To:** Ronetta Taylor  
**Subject:** FW: Youth Focus Group

**From:** TaShek Hamlette  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 04, 2012 5:20 PM  
**To:** Ronetta Taylor  
**Subject:** FW: Youth Focus Group

Please advise.

Thank you,  
TaShek Hamlette

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**From:** Boswell, Marie [<mailto:Marie.Boswell@djj.state.fl.us>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 04, 2012 5:10 PM  
**To:** TaShek Hamlette  
**Subject:** RE: Youth Focus Group

Yes, there will be one representative for CMG Police Department participating on the Focus Group.

**Learn more about DJJ's "Roadmap to System Excellence" at <http://www.djj.state.fl.us/roadmap-to-system-excellence>**

*Delinquency Prevention Specialist - Circuits 11, 16 and 17  
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice  
Office of Prevention and Victim Services  
18425 N.W. 2nd Avenue, Second Floor  
Miami Gardens, FL 33169  
Office Telephone #: (305) 654-1962  
Office Fax #: (305) 654-1961*

Cell Phone #: (305 335-9601

*"The mission of the Department of Juvenile Justice is to increase public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention and treatment services that strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth."*

*Florida has a very broad Public Records Law. All correspondence or communication sent to or from this email address is subject to Florida's Public Record Law. All email communication may be subject to public or media disclosure upon request. This includes email addresses and other contact information.*

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**From:** TaShek Hamlette [<mailto:thamlette@miamigardens-fl.gov>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 04, 2012 4:40 PM

**To:** Boswell, Marie

**Subject:** RE: Youth Focus Group

Please advise if the CMG Police Department will be in attendance to this event.

Thank you,

TaShek Hamlette

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**From:** Boswell, Marie [<mailto:Marie.Boswell@djj.state.fl.us>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 04, 2012 3:03 PM

**To:** TaShek Hamlette

**Subject:** RE: Youth Focus Group

Thank you.

**Learn more about DJJ's "Roadmap to System Excellence" at <http://www.djj.state.fl.us/roadmap-to-system-excellence>**

*Delinquency Prevention Specialist - Circuits 11, 16 and 17*

*Florida Department of Juvenile Justice*

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**From:** TaShek Hamlette [<mailto:thamlette@miamigardens-fl.gov>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 04, 2012 3:00 PM

**To:** Boswell, Marie

**Subject:** RE: Youth Focus Group

Good afternoon,

I will advise accordingly.

Thank you,

TaShek Hamlette

Assistant to City Council | Office of the Mayor & City Council | City of Miami Gardens

1515 N.W. 167th Street; Building 5, Suite 200 | Miami Gardens, Florida 33169

Office (305) 622-8063 | Fax (305) 622-8322 | Intraoffice Ext. 2705

[thamlette@miamigardens-fl.gov](mailto:thamlette@miamigardens-fl.gov)

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**From:** Boswell, Marie [<mailto:Marie.Boswell@djj.state.fl.us>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 04, 2012 2:54 PM  
**To:** TaShek Hamlette  
**Subject:** Youth Focus Group

Hi:

This is in follow up to our conversation in reference to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Youth Focus Group.

The Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Prevention and Victim Services has scheduled a Teen Focus Group to be held December 13, 2012 at the JPM Centre, 3:00pm to 5:00pm, 4055 N.W. 183<sup>rd</sup> Street, Miami Gardens, FL.

The teen focus group is designed to provide a solid foundation for youth to foster a more positive relationship with law enforcement and to create a well-balanced understanding by law enforcement of today's youth. One major premise is to promote reduced juvenile arrest and rearrests. Often times the focus is on punishment and very little on prevention and intervention. The Teen Focus Group will allow us to explore and identify factors that at risk youth are exposed to and then apply early intervention before at risk youth enter the juvenile justice system. We are focusing our practices on **preventing** and **diverting** youth who do not belong in our system.

I spoke with Councilman Harris in reference to providing refreshments for this event and he advised me to contact you. We are requesting pizza, juice, water and cookies to feed approximately 25 youth and 30-40 guests.

Refreshments will be served at the closing of the discussion between 4:30 and 5:00pm.

Please advise as to what I need to do to facilitate receipt of the above items.

Thank you.