
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 12:47 PM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: David Fung-on (Seaport Employee) Ethics Opinion (Outside Employment, Conflict of Interest) INQ 14- 148

INQ 14-148

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 2:59 PM
To: Fung-On, David (Seaport)
Cc: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: INQ - David Fung-on (Seaport Employee) - Outside Employment, Conflict of Interest

Mr. Fung-On:"

You have inquired, in light of our recently published guidelines for county employees seeking outside employment, whether you, as a county Seaport employee, may volunteer at a County-run golf course as a "Ranger." I have learned from communicating with you, as well as with Mr. Shane Warriner at Country Club of Miami, that "Ranger" positions are all volunteer positions at county golf courses. Anyone may apply to be a Ranger. Rangers generally provide assistance on the golf course to golfers, help with the pacing of play, the use of carts, and also will assist at golf courses during tournaments. Rangers are required to be available to perform these services at least one full day per week. Rangers are not compensated, but are permitted complimentary use of the golf course facilities, including the courses themselves as well as the driving range and practice field. The cost of a round of golf can vary depending on the course and the time, but the maximum fee for use of an 18-hole golf course for a member of the public is \$50. The Rangers do not have unfettered use of the facilities, but may use them only when they are available and not being used. County facilities are run by the Miami-Dade Parks Department and are open to the public and may be used by anyone who pays the required fees. There is no overall membership fee for these facilities.

Under the circumstances related above, I do not find that your volunteer work at a county-owned public facility run by a county department other than the department in which you are employed amounts to outside employment pursuant to Section 2-11.1(k) or creates any prohibited conflict of interest under Section 2-11.1(c) or 2-11.1(j). These positions are all-volunteer and provide no compensation other than incidental usage of the facilities during times that they are not in use. It does not appear that there is any measurable cost borne by the county by this usage, which receives significant benefits from the services that are provided by Rangers without compensation. Obviously, you would not be permitted to perform these services during the time in which you are employed and paid by the county for working at the Seaport.

Sincerely,
Joseph M. Centorino
Executive Director and General Counsel
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

From: Fung-On, David (Seaport)
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 6:42 AM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: RE: Outside Employment Guidelines for County Employees

Thanks. The “Ranger” usually monitor the course to make sure the players are in compliance with some of the rules, including pace of play and parking of the carts around the holes. No, as far as I’m aware, no compensation is involved but I think they get some playing privileges. And, it’s off time, not in conflict with normal work hours. Please let me know.

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2014 12:48 PM
To: Fung-On, David (Seaport)
Subject: RE: Outside Employment Guidelines for County Employees

Mr. Fung-On

Please describe what a “Ranger” does. Is it a purely volunteer position or are some people paid to do it? I assume it has nothing to do with your current position at the Seaport.

From: Fung-On, David (Seaport)
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2014 9:55 AM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: RE: Outside Employment Guidelines for County Employees

Mr. Centorino,

Can you clarify if a Miami-Dade County employee, who works for a nonrelated department, volunteer to one the County’s golf courses as a “Ranger”? I just need clarification if this is ok. Please let me know before I proceed.

Thanks

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2014 5:59 PM
To: (MetroNet) All Users
Subject: Outside Employment Guidelines for County Employees

The issue of what is permissible outside employment for county employees under the County Ethics Code has been the subject of numerous requests for opinions and guidance received by the staff at the Commission on Ethics. There are a number of different rules and policies involved that can easily lead to confusion. In general, it is best to seek guidance from a supervisor or from the Commission on Ethics when contemplating any type of employment outside the county government. The attached memorandum, prepared by our Deputy General Counsel, is a good summary of the general guidelines and many of the past opinions we have provided. It should be kept and reviewed by any county employee who is contemplating outside employment. Our staff is always ready to answer any specific question that any employee may have on this subject.

Joseph M. Centorino

Executive Director and General Counsel
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
19 W. Flagler Street, Suite 820
Miami, FL 33130
Tel: (305) 579-2594
Fax: (305) 579-0273
ethics.miamidade.gov

