
Subject: INQ 14-157 - Manuel Sarria, Employee, Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust (Social Activities) - Ethics Opinion

INQ 14-157

From: Ethics (COE)
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 9:48 AM
To: Sarria, Manuel (HT)
Cc: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: INQ - Manuel Sarria, Employee, Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust (Social Activities)

Mr. Sarria,

You have asked whether, as a recent employee of the Homeless Trust, you may socialize with friends you developed over an eighteen-year period while you were employed by a subcontractor of the Homeless Trust.

The Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance does not directly address social activities. In general, you may casually socialize with almost any individual, including your former fellow employees. However, you are correct in noting that there may be some limits to these friendships. This is particularly so where some of these friends may have private or personal interests that they may attempt to advance through their friendship with you.

You are correct in noting that discussion of some work-related matters may be inappropriate. Section 2-11.1(h) of the County Code prohibits disclosure of confidential information garnered or gained through one's official position with the County. Additionally, in the event that your prior employer is a for-profit firm or business entity, under Section 2-11.1(x) of the Code, for a period of two years following employment by such an entity, you may not perform any County contract-related duties regarding that entity. You should also avoid accepting any gifts, including travel or entertainment, from anyone who may be intending to influence any decision of yours as a County employee (Section 2-11.1(e)(3)).

If you have any doubt about the propriety of any particular issue with which you are confronted, you would be well-advised to seek an opinion from this office.

Sincerely,

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

From: Sarria, Manuel (HT)
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 8:13 AM
To: Ethics (COE)
Subject: Social meetings

Good morning, I hope this email finds you well.

I'm recently employed by Miami-Dade County, in the Homeless Trust department. For the past eighteen years I was employed by a subcontractor of the Homeless Trust. During my tenure with my former employer, I befriended other middle managers whom I consider friends and stay in contact with. As it is expected of

friends, some of my former coworkers have invited me to participate in social activities. I am well aware of my obligation not to discuss work related matters, but I'm wondering if I should not participate in any social activities, with subcontractors of the Homeless Trust, altogether?