
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2014 11:42 AM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Vitoria Mendez- City Attorney, City of Miami (gifts) INQ 14-255
Attachments: VMendez attachment.jpeg

INQ 14-255

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 5:37 PM
To: 'Mendez, Victoria'
Cc: Wysong, George; Gomez, Marta; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: RE: Saturday, Lotus House charity event/ request for opinion

Ms. Mendez:

From what you have presented, it does not appear to me that attendance at the charity gala event involves the performance of any official function by an elected official. Therefore, it is my opinion that the tickets are reportable gifts under Section 2-11.1(g)(4) of the County Ethics Code. This includes any ticket that may be accepted for a guest.

You are correct that state law prohibits gifts in excess of \$100 from a lobbyist or city vendor.

From: Mendez, Victoria [<mailto:VMendez@miamigov.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 4:38 PM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Cc: Murawski, Michael P. (COE); Ramos, Miriam S. (COE); Wysong, George; Gomez, Marta
Subject: Saturday, Lotus House charity event/ request for opinion

Mr. Centorino,

I am requesting an opinion on behalf of an elected/ appointed officials who have been invited to attend a fundraising event for a not-for profit charitable organization in recognition of the City's efforts in support of the organization. The elected/ appointed officials will be attending in an official capacity and are allowed to bring a guest. Below is the letter.

Tickets for the event range in price from \$100 to \$500, in the form of a tax deductible donation. The charitable organization has been the recipient of grants from the City of Miami through their parent company, the Sundari foundation, and that parent company received a grant today.

Would acceptance of the invitation under the circumstances be considered to be a reportable gift for the elected official ? Or would this be a situation where the gift, if any, is actually received by the elected official on behalf of the City. See RQO 12-08 and RQO 11-18. ("Municipalities may accept gifts to be used to conduct official government business.")

Lastly, if the elected official is accompanied by a guest will the elected official have to report the gift, if any, of the guest?

However, if the organization is registered as a lobbyist then it would be a prohibited gift. Correct?

Thank you.



Lotus House is hosting its annual celebration and fundraiser this fall. We invite you as our guest to join us on October 25th, 7pm at the Margulies Collection at the Warehouse in Wynwood. We will be recognizing dazzling superstars and celebrating our accomplishments together and shared mission to uplift women, youth and children in need.

We hope you and your guest will join us for an evening of stellar art, sparkling food and wine, and starlight jazz. Your charitable support to Lotus House is what enables us to provide a supportive and nurturing environment where families are afforded a safe haven and opportunity to learn and grow on every level. With your help, the Lotus House has served over 1,200 women, youth, and children since its establishment. Our combination of free housing and wrap-around support services focused on the gender-specific needs of homeless women, enable those we serve to blossom into who they are truly meant to be.

As space is limited, please RSVP to Azra Samee, Outreach Associate, (305-299-8955 or outreach@lotushouseshelter.org) by September 30th. Valet parking will be provided. Thank you so much for your continuing support!

With love from Lotus House,



Constance Collins

Executive Director