
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2015 11:45 AM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: James Benson, Staff Counsel, South Area General Counsel Office, Verizon Wireless (Lobbyist Registration) INQ 15-129

INQ 15-129 Benson

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2015 11:35 AM
To: Benson, James H (James.Benson@VerizonWireless.com)
Cc: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Singer, Miriam (ISD); Perez, Martha D. (COE)
Subject: INQ 15-129 James Benson, Staff Counsel, South Area General Counsel Office, Verizon Wireless (Lobbyist Registration)

Mr. Benson:

You have inquired regarding whether representatives of Verizon Wireless would need to register as lobbyists with Miami-Dade County in order to discuss plans of sales operations with Miami-Dade County agencies, in view of the existence of a State of Florida Wireless Contract under which Verizon Wireless is an approved vendor. You suggested that it is your belief that such representative would not need to register inasmuch as they would be accessing an existing contract that would not require the approval of the Mayor or County Commissioners.

Please be advised that, based upon information received from the County's Internal Services Department (ITD) (see below email), it appears that the County has an enterprise contract in place that is managed by ITD on behalf of the County, which was awarded to AT&T via a full and open RFP process. This contract has been in place since 2008 and the County has no other Countywide contract for wireless devices and services. Accordingly, in order for the County to consider utilizing Verizon Wireless for such services, there would need to be an open and competitive process that would involve an advertisement, a selection committee, and the involvement of both the Mayor and County Commission in the final decision.

Therefore, it is my conclusion that any representative of Verizon Wireless seeking to influence a Miami-Dade County decision to utilize its services in this area would require lobbyist registration and compliance with all relevant provisions of Section 2-11.1(s) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance.

Sincerely,

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

From: Singer, Miriam (ISD)
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 3:09 PM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: Verizon Wireless

Joe: Please see below:

The County has an enterprise contract in place that is managed by the Information Technology Department on behalf of the County, that was competitive via a full and open RFP process and awarded to AT&T. The contract information is below:

<u>Contract Id</u>	<u>Contract Title</u>	<u>Effective Dt.</u>	<u>Expiration Dt.</u>	<u>Contract Amt.</u>
RFP526-5(8)	CELLULAR (WIRELESS) SERVICES & EQUIPMENT	11/01/2014	10/31/2015	\$5,127,248.00

The County standardized on the use of a single carrier across the County for wireless devices and services since the inception of this Agreement in November 2008. The contract has three additional one year renewals available under the Agreement. I am not aware nor do we have a contract vehicle in place to authorize the use of another carrier or payment for services provided. The information provided below by Mr. Benson is incorrect in the statement that BCC approval would not be required, the expenditure of funds and use of another contract would require the establishment of an access agreement and allocation for the County department(s) to use the contract for the purchase of the equipment and/or services. All requests are mandated to go through ITD, and to date I am not aware of any requests for the State of Florida contract to be accessed.

Should you need additional information or clarification, please let me know.

Thank you,
Melissa

From: Benson, James H [<mailto:James.Benson@VerizonWireless.com>]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 3:52 PM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: RE: Confirmation of our discussion - Verizon Wireless

Mr. Centorino,

Thank you for your response. See my response to your query below:

All four major wireless carriers, AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon Wireless, have competitively bid contracts with the State of Florida via the Department of Management Services (DMS). AT&T currently sales wireless products and services to Miami-Dade County Agencies under the terms and conditions and pricing of the AT&T State of Florida Wireless Contract. Verizon Wireless is offering to provide it wireless service and product to Miami-Dade County Agencies under the terms and conditions and pricing of the Verizon Wireless State of Florida Wireless Contract. There is no competition because the contract are fixed price contracts that a Miami-Dade County Agency simply orders based on those terms and conditions and pricing its selects.

I hope this response is helpful. I you have any other questions please, let me know. Thank you so much.

JAMES BENSON

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE) [<mailto:CENTORI@miamidade.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 3:23 PM
To: Benson, James H
Subject: RE: Confirmation of our discussion - Verizon Wireless

Mr. Benson,

I am awaiting further information from the County about this contract before I can issue an opinion. Can you tell me if there are other firms that you would be competing with for the same business on this contract?

Joe Centorino

From: Benson, James H [<mailto:James.Benson@VerizonWireless.com>]

Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 10:57 AM

To: Centorino, Joseph (COE)

Subject: FW: Confirmation of our discussion - Verizon Wireless

Mr. Centorino,

I am following up on my email of a week ago. I would appreciate your reply/response to the plan below for moving forward with Verizon Wireless sales to Miami-Dade County Agencies.

Regards,

JAMES BENSON

From: Benson, James H

Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 5:06 PM

To: 'centori@miamidade.gov'

Subject: Confirmation of our discussion - Verizon Wireless

Mr. Centorino,

I would like to thank you for taking the time to speak to me a few weeks ago. Based on that conversation, I would like to lay out Verizon Wireless (VZW) plans of sales operation for Miami-Dade County Agencies.

First, VZW will only sale to the Miami-Dade County agencies from the State of Florida Wireless Contract, which was executed nearly four years ago after a competitive bidding process.

Second, purchases from this contract require no Board of Commissioners action. The Agencies simply issue an order for the products and services and reference and accept the terms and condition of the State of Florida Wireless Contract.

Finally, VZW will complete all of the necessary Vendor Registration forms, as required. However, at this time, VZW will not be registering any employees as Vendor Lobbyists because no VZW employees will have any interaction with the Commissioners or their staffers and will not attempt to influence any Board action or decision.

If any of the steps that VZW plans to take as it begins sales calls with Miami –Dade agencies is a violation of any Miami-Dade ordinance or ethics rule, please let me know and we will rectify that violation. Otherwise, could you reply that you see no ethics issue with the plan above.

Thank you so much. Regards

JAMES H. BENSON

Staff Counsel

South Area General Counsel Office

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