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**From:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2015 1:52 PM  
**To:** Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)  
**Subject:** Gregory Govia, Computer Service Manager, Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (Gifts, Travel Expenses) INQ 15-151  
**Attachments:** WASDNoGiftPolicy.pdf

INQ 15-151 Govia

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**From:** Ethics (COE)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2015 1:35 PM  
**To:** Govia, Gregory A. (WASD)  
**Cc:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Perez, Martha D. (COE); Sola, Lester (WASD)  
**Subject:** INQ 15-151 Gregory Govia, Computer Service Manager, Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (Gifts, Travel Expenses)

Mr. Govia:

You have inquired regarding whether you may accept a raffle prize consisting of two tickets to Paris, France, which you received at the annual Alliance Conference this year, which you attended in your capacity as Computer Service Manager at the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department. The Alliance Conference is an annual user-driven conference for users of Oracle software applications. Your attendance at the conference was paid for by the County. One of the vendor/exhibitors at the conference, Opening Insight Group offered a raffle which required no purchase or obligation to enter and was open to all attendees. It was one of several raffles at the conference. As a result of your completing an entry ticket, you won the tickets to Paris. Opening Insight Group is not presently a County vendor.

Inasmuch as the award of the tickets came without any consideration on your part, the tickets would be considered a gift under Section 2-11.(e) of the Miami-Dade County Code of Ethics. However, because it was provided without any connection to your official position with the County or in exchange for any duty or act you might be involved with in your County position, it is not a prohibited gift under Section 2-11.1(e). Additionally, it would not be a prohibited acceptance of travel expenses under Section 2-11.1(w) since the donor company is not a County vendor, contractor or service provider. Since the value of the gift exceeds one hundred dollars, however, you would be required to disclose it on a gift disclosure form pursuant to Section 2-11.1(e)(4), in the event that you accept it.

An additional issue is presented by the recently-adopted no-gift policy at WASD, a copy of which is attached. Under that policy no employee of WASD may accept gifts "from current or potential vendors, contractors or their agents, local businesses, or County departments." If Opening Insight Group is considered a potential vendor or contractor, or if it is considered a local business, then acceptance of the free tickets would be prohibited under this policy. However, since the policy is an administrative policy enforceable by WASD management and not by the Commission on Ethics, you need to consult with the department director to determine whether it is covered under the policy.

Sincerely,

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

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**From:** Govia, Gregory A. (WASD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2015 5:38 PM  
**To:** Ethics (COE)  
**Subject:** Request of an Opinion

I attended the annual Alliance Conference this year. My attendance was approved and paid by the Water and Sewer Department.

The Alliance Conference is an annual user-driven conference for users of Oracle software applications such as ERP Financials, Human Resources, etc. The conference is attended by over 3500 users mostly from the United States, but there are attendees from around the world. Like most conferences there are workshops/educational sessions to better understand how your organization can increase the value you get from the software tools you already use/own. And also like most conferences there are vendor/exhibitors can offer further assistance in business areas related to the software.

At this conference there were more than 100 exhibitors. Some of these exhibitors raffled prizes for the attendees. All attendees were able to enter. None of the raffles required a purchase or any obligation to the vendor. You simply completed an "entry ticket" that had your name, contact information, and typically which software modules you currently used. After returning to work, I was contacted by Opening Insight Group and informed that I had won their raffle prize. The prize was 2 tickets to Paris, France. The Water and Sewer Department does not do any business with Opening Insight Group, and to my knowledge the County itself has never done any business with Opening Insight. Furthermore, I am not aware of any upcoming solicitation for which Opening Insight would qualify to bid on.

As my employment was of no significance to entering the raffle and I cannot provide any benefit to Opening Insight Group, am I able to accept the prize?

**Greg Govia**, Computer Service Manager  
**Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department**  
786-552-8074  
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