
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 8:49 AM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Miami-Dade County Commissioner Rebeca Sosa (DIST 6) (Travel Expenses) INQ 15-180

INQ 15-180 Sosa

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 4:11 PM
To: Aguirre, Betty (DIST6)
Cc: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Perez, Martha D. (COE); Sanchez, Gerald (CAO)
Subject: INQ 15-180 Miami-Dade County Commissioner Rebeca Sosa (DIST 6) (Travel Expenses)

Ms. Aguirre;

You have inquired on behalf of Miami-Dade County Commissioner Rebeca Sosa regarding whether she may go on an inaugural cruise of a new ship being launched in November by Norwegian Cruise Lines. I understand that Commissioner Sosa received the invitation for her and her husband to attend a complimentary cruise extended to regular cruise line patrons as a promotion for the new ship. It is Commissioner Sosa's understanding that the invitation was not extended to other Commission members, but was made to her based upon her frequent cruise-taking. To her knowledge the other persons on the cruise will be other frequent cruisers like herself, none of whom will be paying for the cruise. The cruise itself is not a regular cruise which is open to the public, and is a two-day cruise that will not stop at any ports, but will simply cruise out to sea and return to the port. Commissioner Sosa has taken the step of requesting that the cruise line give her a price that could be paid for the cruise, which is \$99 per person, per night. Commissioner Sosa has also indicated that there will be a ceremony held in the port at the launching of the ship prior to the cruise, in which she will participate along with other County officials. However, there is no connection between the ceremony and the cruise itself.

Under Section 2-11.1(w) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, it would generally be prohibited by that section for any County official or employee to accept travel or travel-related expenses from any County contractor, vendor, service provider, bidder or proposer. Norwegian Cruise line is a County contractor based on its contract to operate out of Port/Miami, a County agency. Regardless of the fact that the offer was extended to her not as an official but as a frequent cruiser, Commissioner Sosa could not accept a complimentary cruise from Norwegian Cruise lines. Given however, that she will be paying for the cruise for herself and her husband, and that the opportunity is not being offered to her based upon her position as County Commissioner, it is my opinion that she may go on the cruise under these given circumstances.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Centorino
Executive Director and General Counsel

From: Aguirre, Betty (DIST6)
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2015 5:59 PM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: Fwd: You're officially invited to Escape

Good afternoon Mr Centorino,

Per our conversation please see invite below.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: <rebso3@aol.com>
Date: August 16, 2015 at 9:55:31 AM EDT
To: <bettya@miamidade.gov>
Subject: Fwd: You're officially invited to Escape

can you find out if it is proper to accept this

-----Original Message-----

From: Norwegian Cruise Line <donotreply@ncl.com>
To: IsNull <rebso3@aol.com>
Sent: Fri, Aug 14, 2015 10:09 am
Subject: You're officially invited to Escape





You and a guest are invited to the exclusive christening and two-night cruise to experience new tastes, new sounds and a new sense of freedom on our newest and most exciting ship, Norwegian Escape.

[RSVP HERE TO PLAN YOUR ESCAPE](#)

Please RSVP by August 20

NCL NORWEGIAN
CRUISE LINE®

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