
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 9:02 AM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: David Murray, Assistant County Attorney, Miami-Dade County (Exploitation) INQ 15-181

INQ 15-181 Murray

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 4:42 PM
To: Murray, David M. (Aviation)
Cc: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Perez, Martha D. (COE); Sanchez, Gerald (CAO)
Subject: INQ 15-181 David Murray, Assistant County Attorney, Miami-Dade County (Exploitation)

Mr. Murray,

You have inquired on behalf of the Miami-Dade County Aviation Department concerning the ethical propriety of the Aviation Department utilizing \$2000 in County funds to pay for 100 tickets to an upcoming Marlins game to be used by employees of the Aviation Department to attend an upcoming Marlins baseball game that will benefit Operation SAFE. Operation SAFE is a program sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that benefits high school students by providing them with information about the aviation industry and promoting interest in the industry through its programs. Proceeds from the Marlins game will go to the benefit of Operation SAFE. The purpose of inviting aviation employees to attend is to show appreciation to them for their work at the airport, and, in the same effort, to benefit Operation SAFE, which has been endorsed by the Aviation Department management which has authorized the participation of the department in the program's activities. It is also my understanding that the price of the tickets arises from a standard offer of the Marlins that would be the same offered to any other person or entity purchasing 100 tickets to the game.

The issue comes down to whether it is an appropriate expenditure of County funds to pay for the tickets, which will be provided by the department on a complimentary basis to its employees. If not appropriate, such an expenditure could be deemed to be an Exploitation of Official Position under Section 2-11.1(g) of the County Ethics Ordinance. It is my opinion and advice that the department should not expend the funds in the proposed manner. While it may be appropriate for the department to expend funds on occasion for morale or team building activities for employees, I do not see that the use of County funds for them to attend a baseball game would clearly fit within such a purpose, notwithstanding that some proceeds from the game would benefit a laudable purpose.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Centorino
Executive Director and General Counsel
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