
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 2:36 PM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Ralph Ventura, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office, City of Sweetwater (Gift Disclosure) FW: INQ 15-191
Attachments: image001.jpg; image001.jpg

[INQ 15-191 Ventura](#)

From: Ralph Ventura [mailto:rventura@cityofsweetwater.fl.gov]
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 1:51 PM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Cc: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Perez, Martha D. (COE)
Subject: Re: INQ 15-191 Ralph Ventura, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office, City of Sweetwater Gift Disclosure

Thank you, Joe.

RV

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 24, 2015, at 12:35 PM, Centorino, Joseph (COE) <CENTORI@miamidade.gov> wrote:

Mr. Ventura,

You have inquired regarding the necessity of disclosure of complimentary food platters being provided to Sweetwater City Employees by Jersey Mike's, a sub shop/restaurant located in the vicinity of the City of Sweetwater, but outside of the borders of the City. The offer of the complimentary platters was initiated by Jersey Mike's and was not solicited by any official or employee of the City. The platters of food will be provided at City Hall, where they will be available to any City employee. The motivation for the gift is likely a promotion on behalf of Jersey Mike's to make its products better known to the City employees, some of whom already patronize the establishment. The food is not intended as a gift to any one individual or department, and is being provided to all employees at City Hall, who will have equal access to the food. The value of the entire gift is likely to be well in excess of \$100, but it is not anticipated that any official or employee will consume food that would be anything close to \$100 in value. You, in your position as the Mayor's Chief of Staff have given permission for the food to be provided, but only at the request of Jersey Mike's. Jersey Mike's is not a contractor, vendor, service provider or lobbyist at the City of Sweetwater.

Under these circumstances, I do not see any prohibition that would prevent such dispensation of complimentary food platters made available to all City employees at City Hall. Assuming that no City official or employee will be provided with food exceeding \$100 in value, there would be no requirement that the food be reported as a gift under Section 2-11.1(e)(4) of the County Ethics Code.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Centorino
Executive Director and General Counsel

From: Ralph Ventura [<mailto:rventura@cityofsweetwater.fl.gov>]
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 11:08 AM
To: Guillermo Cuadra
Cc: Mayor Orlando Lopez; Claudia Miro; Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: RE: Jersey Mike's

Guillermo,

Pursuant to my conversation w/Joe Centorino this morning, acceptance of the platter would not constitute a gift to any particular individual in excess of \$100. I have copied Mr. Centorino on this email in order to provide him with the entire thread of the conversation for his records. Should you have any further questions, please feel at liberty to contact Mr. Centorino personally.



Ralph Ventura, JD
Chief of Staff
Mayor's Office
City of Sweetwater

From: Guillermo Cuadra [<mailto:gc@cuadralaw.net>]
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 10:42 AM
To: Ralph Ventura
Subject: Re: Jersey Mike's

If you authorize Claudia to accept this food then it's you provided it's over \$100.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 24, 2015, at 10:20 AM, Ralph Ventura <rventura@cityofsweetwater.fl.gov> wrote:

Who would disclose this if the recipient is the city itself?



Ralph Ventura, JD
Chief of Staff
Mayor's Office
City of Sweetwater

From: Guillermo Cuadra [<mailto:gc@cuadralaw.net>]
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2015 1:09 PM

To: Ralph Ventura
Subject: RE: Jersey Mike's

The answer is yes. To the extent the sample catering exceeds \$100, then it has to be disclosed by the recipient pursuant to Sec. 2-11.1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County.

From: Ralph Ventura [<mailto:rventura@cityofsweetwater.fl.gov>]
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2015 2:11 PM
To: Guillermo Cuadra <gc@cuadralaw.net>
Subject: Fwd: Jersey Mike's

Please see below.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Claudia Miro <CMiro@cityofsweetwater.fl.gov>
Date: August 21, 2015 at 1:37:49 PM EDT
To: Ralph Ventura <rventura@cityofsweetwater.fl.gov>
Subject: FW: Jersey Mike's

Ralph,

Please see below. Are we okay to receive the sample catering for the office?

-Claudia

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

From: Claudia Miro
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2015 1:32 PM
To: Mayor Orlando Lopez
Subject: FW: Jersey Mike's

FYI- Please advise on the sample catering they want to provide.

-Claudia

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

From: Claudia Miro
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2015 1:17 PM
To: 'Diane'
Subject: RE: Jersey Mike's

Thank you Diane, it was a truly a pleasure to meet you and have you come out and join us in giving back to our community. I will get back to you on that as soon as I know.

Best,

-Claudia

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

From: Diane [<mailto:diansaa@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Friday, August 21, 2015 1:16 PM

To: Claudia Miro

Subject: Jersey Mike's

Hi Claudia,

I want to thank you for the opportunity to work with all of you on Tuesday. It was a pleasure and honor to be part of what Mayor Lopez did for the community.

I would love to continue working with you in the future. Keep me posted on what's going on.

In the meson time I want to take you some sample catering. Let me know when the all the staff will be there so I can go by with lunch for you guys.

Again thank you very much

Sincerely

Diane

Diane Lopez

Jersey Mike's Marketing

786-319-2904