
From: Perez, Martha D. (COE)
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 3:35 PM
To: zackstevenson1210@gmail.com
Cc: Centorino, Joseph (COE); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Zack Stevenson, Vendor/Lobbyist,City of Miami (Political Contribution) INQ 15-227

Mr. Stevenson,

You inquired whether you, as a vendor or potential vendor in the City of Miami, may make a political contribution to a City Commissioner or another political candidate for the City Commission.

Section 2-11.1(e)(3) of the Miami-Dade County Code of Ethics prohibits a City official in his official capacity, from *soliciting, demanding or accepting* any gift from another person in exchange for official action taken or a legal duty performed (or violated). However, political contributions specifically authorized by State law are exempt from the definition of “gifts” within the Ethics Code. See Sec. 2-11.1(e)(2)(a). Therefore, political contributions are not prohibited even when solicited from or accepted by lobbyists or vendors.

Provided there is no *quid pro quo* or other intent to obtain a special benefit or influence any official action by the City Commissioner or candidate for City Commission, you may contribute to a political campaign, in accordance with State law. See, <http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/candidates-committees/campaign-finance/>

This opinion is based on the facts presented. If any of these facts change, please contact us.

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From: Zack Stevenson [<mailto:zackstevenson1210@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 3:43 PM
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: Miami Political Contribution for Ethics

Me and you spoke earlier, and you wanted me to email you. Can I make a political contribution to a City of Miami Commissioner or a candidate for office, even though I want to do business with the City? What if I'm already doing business with the City? I don't think I can because of

Sec. 2-613. - Accepting gifts, etc., from persons contracting, etc., with city. Every officer, official or employee of the city, including every member of any board, commission or agency of the city, is expressly prohibited from accepting, directly or indirectly, from any person, company, firm or corporation to which any purchase order or contract is or might be awarded, any rebate, gift, money or anything of value whatsoever, except where given for the use and benefit of the city.

But does "anything of value whatsoever" include political contributions and does "might be awarded" mean anything that would really maybe be awarded anytime in the future? I know Commissioners are receiving money from, like, construction companies and stuff who do business with the City, so I don't know how it works.

Thanks.

Zack
(347) 813-1733