
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 10:12 AM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Matthew Haber, Assistant City Attorney, City of Miami (Gifts/Tickets) INQ 15-243
Attachments: finalticketpolicy.doc; ticketpolicyaddendum.pdf

INQ 15-243 Haber

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 4:07 PM
To: MS (Haber@miamigov.com)
Cc: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Perez, Martha D. (COE)
Subject: INQ 15-243 Matthew Haber, Assistant City Attorney, City of Miami (Gifts/Tickets)

Matthew:

This will confirm our recent phone call in which you inquired regarding the ethical issues raised in connection with Miami Beach Bowl tickets to be provided to the City of Miami pursuant to a written agreement between the City and the Miami Beach Bowl under which the City of Miami will be co-hosting the bowl game and receiving the complimentary tickets. There is or will be a Resolution sponsored by the Miami City Commission authorizing the City Manager to co-host the game. You inquired regarding the appropriate way for these tickets to be distributed.

Pursuant to the memo entitled, "Guidelines and recommendations regarding 'public benefit' clauses in certain government contracts" and the addendum thereto, both attached, which have been formally adopted by the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, these tickets would be governed by the terms set out in those documents since they are to be provided to the City of Miami as consideration under a contract between the City and a private entity. As such, the tickets are public property, just as city funds or any other public resource, which should be handled as would any other public property owned by the City. They should be distributed to benefit the public, in a method to be determined by the City administration. If a City official should receive such a ticket, it would be reportable as a gift from the City if valued over \$100 under Section 2-11.1(e)(4), unless that official is involved in a ceremonial or other official activity at the event. They should not be provided on a complimentary basis to friends or relatives of the officials. A public record should be maintained regarding the disposition of the gifts, appropriate to their status as public property. While the City has some discretion in selecting the method for distribution of the tickets, the Ethics Commission has recommended that elected officials not be involved in the distribution of such public benefit tickets.

Joseph M. Centorino

Executive Director and General Counsel
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
19 W. Flagler Street, Suite 820
Miami, FL 33130
Tel: (305) 579-2594
Fax: (305) 579-0273
ethics.miamidade.gov

