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**From:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2015 9:11 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)  
**Subject:** Tim Gomez, Representative of LAYNE, a County bidder/contractor with WASD- INQ 15-94

INQ 15-94 Gomez

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**From:** Ethics (COE)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2015 9:44 AM  
**To:** 'TGomez GOMEZ'; Sola, Lester (WASD)  
**Cc:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Sanchez, Gerald (CAO)  
**Subject:** INQ 15-94 Tim Gomez, Representative of LAYNE, a County bidder/contractor with WASD

Mr. Gomez:

You have inquired regarding whether the company you represent, LAYNE which bids on projects at Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department, may invite Miami-Dade County employees to an event hosted by LAYNE at a restaurant during an upcoming American Water Works Association Conference in Anaheim California on the evening of June 10. I presume that the hosting of the event by LAYNE means that LAYNE is paying for the event, including the provision of food and food services that will be provided to the attendees on a complimentary basis.

Miami-Dade County has a very strict prohibition against acceptance by County employees of travel or travel-related expenses from any County contractor, vendor, service provider, bidder or proposer under Section 2-11.1(w) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance. Travel-related expenses include, but are not limited to, transportation, lodging, **meals**, registration fees and incidentals. The only way that a County employee may be permitted to accept payment for such expenses from a County service provider or bidder would be for a waiver of this restriction to be approved by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners.

Therefore, LAYNE may not include County employees at such an event unless the employee or the County pays for the value of the food and any incidental services at the event, or unless the Board of County Commissioners waives the restriction in the ordinance.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Centorino  
Executive Director and General Counsel  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

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**From:** TGomez GOMEZ [<mailto:timgomez3@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2015 8:48 AM  
**To:** Ethics (COE)  
**Subject:** Request for an Opinion

I represent a company called LAYNE, that bids on projects at Miami-Dade Water and Sewer.

LAYNE is hosting an event at a restaurant located on the site of the American Water Works Association Conference in Anaheim California on the evening of June 10th.

Is LAYNE allowed to invite employees from Miami-Dade Water and Sewer, who are attending the conference, to attend the event?

Events sponsored by industry representatives are common at these types of conferences.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Tim Gomez

