
INQ 16-02 Levine

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 5:22 PM
To: Perez, Martha D. (COE); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: INQ 16-02 Philip Levine, Mayor, City of Miami Beach (Gift Solicitation)

Mayor Philip Levine of the City of Miami Beach, inquired concerning ethical issues that might be raised in connection with fundraising solicitations for the City of Miami Beach's sponsorship of the Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2017. The Mayor intends to have the City sponsor the event and to create a Committee of private sector individuals who will engage in fundraising for the event. I advised him that if the event were a City-sponsored event, particularly if the sponsorship is endorsed by the City Commission, then his involvement in solicitation activities for the event would be permissible under Section 2-11.1(e)(2)(f) since the solicitation would be for a City function that would amount to use of the funds raised for the event by the City in the course of its official business. The benefits to tourism and cultural exchange would be of significant public benefit to the City, thereby justifying the exception. Neither the Mayor nor any other city official would receive any personal, private benefit from the event. He was cautioned, however, to avoid direct fundraising solicitations of City lobbyists or vendors in order to avoid any appearance of impropriety or perception of heavy-handedness. He said he would do so and would restrict his personal involvement to soliciting from persons or entities outside of the City which did not have any business relationship with the City.

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

