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INQ 16-120 Krimsky

**From:** Ethics (COE)

**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2016 1:23 PM

**To:** 'lkrimsky@ful.edu' <lkrimsky@ful.edu>

**Cc:** Sanchez, Gerald (CAO) <gks@miamidade.gov>; Rosenthal, Oren (CAO) <OROSENT@miamidade.gov>; Turay, Radia (COE) <Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <perezmd@miamidade.gov>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <GDIAZGR@miamidade.gov>

**Subject:** INQ 16-120 Lisa Krimsky, Ph.D., Sea Grant Agent, Miami-Dade County Department of Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces (PROS ) (Gifts)

Dr. Krimsky,

You have inquired in your capacity as Florida Sea Grant Agent with the Miami-Dade County Department of Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces (PROS) regarding whether the upcoming boat tour of Biscayne Bay, being offered to Miami-Dade County and municipal elected officials and the general public, would be considered a gift under the County Ethics Code and whether good consisting of soft drinks and refreshments may be served. The tour and the refreshments would be funded from public grant monies under the control of PROS.

Inasmuch as the purpose of the tour is to highlight certain environmental issues to local officials who may be in a position to take action on these issues in their official capacities, and will be funded from public grant monies, we would consider this to be a pure governmental function with a clear public purpose. Therefore the provision of this tour and incidental food to such officials and interested members of the public would not be considered a gift under Section 2-11.1(e) of the County Code of Ethics.

I also understand that, in connection with our previous opinion provided to you, INQ 16-107, you have elected to arrange for a live video feed of the tour that will be made available to all officials and members of the general public who will be unable to attend in person. I would regard this accommodation as a reasonable one that should satisfy the public access requirements of the Florida Sunshine Law under the circumstances of this event.

Sincerely,

Joe Centorino

*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](http://ethics.miamidade.gov)



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**From:** Krimsky, Lisa [<mailto:lkrimsky@ufl.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2016 10:02 AM  
**To:** Ethics (COE) <[ethics@miamidade.gov](mailto:ethics@miamidade.gov)>  
**Subject:** Boat toar for county commissioners

Good morning,

I am an employee of Miami-Dade County. In partnership with local agencies and organizations, we are organizing a 4 hour boat tour of Biscayne Bay for county commissioners. We have a couple of questions regarding compliance

1. Do we have to disclose (and if so, how) how much the boat trip costs so it is not considered a gift. Participation in the event is free
2. Are we allowed to provide food?

Thank you for your assistance,  
Lisa

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Lisa Krimsky, Ph.D.  
Florida Sea Grant Agent

UF/IFAS Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension  
Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department  
4600 Rickenbacker Causeway  
Miami, FL 33149  
305-421-4017

Support Biscayne Bay Water Quality



[Biscayne Bay Water Watch:](#)  
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[http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/environment/sea\\_grant.shtml](http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/environment/sea_grant.shtml)