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Please include in file.

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**From:** Seff, Flora (MDFR)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 7:22 AM  
**To:** Ethics (COE) <[ethics@miamidade.gov](mailto:ethics@miamidade.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: INQ 16-73 Flora Seff, Legal Liaison, Miami-Dade Fire Department (Gifts)

Well, the \$10 each gift cards were distributed due to the amount. It appeared not much different than people who come to station and bring food. Hope your vacation was a good one. See you next week at Ethics program

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 9, 2016, at 5:37 PM, Ethics (COE) <[ethics@miamidade.gov](mailto:ethics@miamidade.gov)> wrote:

Flora,

I apologize for the delay in responding, but I just returned from vacation this week and have been fairly swamped.

You have inquired regarding whether there is an ethical prohibition regarding acceptance of a \$10 Starbucks gift card provided by a patient treated by MDFR paramedics, which were sent unsolicited to each person on the call. Based on the provisions of Section 2-11.1(e)(3) of the County Ethics Code, I would advise you not to distribute the cards to the employees and to return them to the sender, perhaps with a letter thanking that person for his/her thoughtfulness but explaining that it would be inappropriate for public servants in the County to accept gifts for services performed in the course of their duties. Section 2-11.1(e)(4) prohibits the acceptance of a gift for an official action taken by a County employee, which appears to be the case here. Further, Section 2-11.(k)(1) prohibits County employees from receiving any compensation for his or her services as a County employee from any source other than the County. Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Joe

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

<image001.jpg>

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**From:** Seff, Flora (MDFR)  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2016 3:43 PM  
**To:** Ethics (COE) <[ethics@miamidade.gov](mailto:ethics@miamidade.gov)>  
**Subject:** Gifts

A patient treated by MDFR paramedics sent unsolicited a \$10 Starbucks giftcard to each person on the call. Can we distribute the cards to the employees?

Thanks,  
Flora E. Seff  
Legal Liaison MDFR