

Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)

From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 11:25 AM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Joanna, Revelo, Human Resources Manager, Miami-Dade County Children's Trust (Gifts) INQ 17-268

INQ 17-268 Revelo

From: Joanna Revelo, PHR, SHRM-CP [mailto:joanna@thechildrenstrust.org]
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 11:09 AM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE) <Joseph.Centorino@miamidade.gov>
Cc: Turay, Radia (COE) <Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <Martha.Perez2@miamidade.gov>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>; Sibia, Rhonda (COE) <Rhonda.Sibia@miamidade.gov>; Sanchez, Gerald (CAO) <Gerald.Sanchez@miamidade.gov>; Kirtley, Eddie (CAO) <Eddie.Kirtley@miamidade.gov>
Subject: RE: INQ 17-268 Joanna, Revelo, Human Resources Manager, Miami-Dade County Children's Trust (Gifts)

Thank you, Mr. Centorino, for providing a much more detailed explanation to my question on the solicitation and acceptance of gifts. The stated explanation is much more detailed and clearer than the initial response posted.

Wishing you and your staff a happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Joanna

Joanna Revelo, PHR, SHRM-CP

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The Children's Trust values Integrity, Trust, Teamwork, Quality and Leadership.

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From: Centorino, Joseph (COE) [mailto:Joseph.Centorino@miamidade.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 10:40 AM
To: Joanna Revelo, PHR, SHRM-CP <joanna@thechildrenstrust.org>
Cc: Turay, Radia (COE) <Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <Martha.Perez2@miamidade.gov>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>; Sibia, Rhonda (COE) <Rhonda.Sibia@miamidade.gov>; Sanchez, Gerald (CAO) <Gerald.Sanchez@miamidade.gov>; Kirtley, Eddie (CAO) <Eddie.Kirtley@miamidade.gov>
Subject: INQ 17-268 Joanna, Revelo, Human Resources Manager, Miami-Dade County Children's Trust (Gifts)

Ms. Revelo:

You have inquired, in your capacity as Human Resources Manager at the Miami-Dade County Children's Trust, regarding ethical prohibitions relating to the solicitation of gifts by County staff. Although there is a general prohibition in Section 2-11.1(e)(3) of the Miami-Dade County Ethics Code against solicitation of any gift by County employees, there is an exception to this rule by virtue of Section 2-11.1(e)(2)(e). The latter provision exempts from the ordinance, "Gifts solicited by County employees or departmental personnel on behalf of the County in performance of their official duties for use solely by the County in conducting its official business." This exception has generally been applied where the solicitation is for a gift directly to the County or for an officially recognized public purpose or charitable fundraising drive, e.g., the United Way drive, which has been the subject of official sponsorship by the Mayor and County Commission and has explicitly included the encouragement of involvement by County personnel.

It is also appropriate, however, as you have indicated, to recognize that any gift solicitation in connection with the conduct of County business carries with it possible ethical issues that may create concerns that the solicitation could imply a quid pro quo or appear to be heavy-handed when addressed directly to individuals or entities that do business with the County. As a result of that concern, the Ethics Commission has adopted the policy that any solicitation under this exception should not be made directly to, or targeted toward, lobbyists and county contractors or vendors. See. RQO 06-05. What we suggest is that such solicitations be addressed generally to the public or the business community, but that County officials and employees refrain from direct personal contact with lobbyists, contractors or vendors. Such individuals or entities are free to contribute to these causes, but should not be made to feel that their participation is expected or required due to their business activities with the County.

Thank you for expressing your interest in this issue. If there are any further questions you may have, please feel free to submit them to us.

Sincerely,
Joe Centorino

Joseph M. Centorino

Executive Director and General Counsel
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