

**Meyers, Robert (COE)**

ING 05-104

**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 13, 2005 2:48 PM  
**To:** 'Jerlib@aol.com'  
**Subject:** FW: My e-mail address

Per your request, please read the following.

Robert Meyers

**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 13, 2005 2:47 PM  
**To:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Subject:** RE: My e-mail address

As you know, the City of Miami Beach adopted an ordinance that permits vendors to solicit campaign contributions for City Commission candidates but prohibits vendors from actually giving a contribution. State law recognizes two types of campaign contributions – monetary and in kind. Thus, under the City Code both types of contributions are barred. One of the questions to briefly address is the definition of an in kind contribution. An example of a prohibited activity would be for a vendor to hold a fundraiser for you in his/his home. The State takes the position that the use of the vendor's home has a monetary value and is considered an in kind contribution, which is barred by Miami Beach ordinance. On the other hand, you could host a fundraiser at your home and invite vendors who would be allowed to solicit contributions for you.

Under the ordinance, the vendor can use any means available to solicit a contribution for a candidate – face-to-face, the telephone, the internet, the U.S. mail, a fax. Of course, contributions from all sources must comply with applicable state and local laws.

Regarding contributions from city board members, I am aware of no provision that restricts the right of such individuals from soliciting contributions or giving contributions to a City Commission candidate; however, if such persons are lobbyists, vendors or developers, then the campaign finance ordinance would apply. Finally, there are some limitations about attempting to solicit contributions from individuals who work in government buildings or making a political contribution in a government building. Therefore, I would caution any board members who wish to solicit on your behalf to do so away from City Hall or any other public building where the City of Miami Beach holds its meetings.

If you wish to discuss in greater detail, please contact me at your convenience.

Thank you,

Robert Meyers

**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2005 1:02 PM  
**To:** 'Jerlib@aol.com'  
**Subject:** RE: My e-mail address

Thank you for this information. I will be out of town next week, but I will have an answer for you the week of July 11th.

Robert Meyers

**From:** Jerlib@aol.com [mailto:Jerlib@aol.com]

7/13/2005

**Sent:** Sunday, June 26, 2005 7:00 PM  
**To:** RMEYERS@miamidade.gov  
**Subject:** Re: My e-mail address

Dear Mr. Meyers,

I am a candidate for Miami Beach City Commission and I would like to request a written opinion with respect to the campaign finance ordinance in our City with respect to Vendors.

Specifically, I would like to know if a current Vendor of the City of Miami Beach can either ask someone in person, or on the telephone, after identifying themselves as a volunteer for my campaign and request a contribution to my campaign. ( I know that the Vendor can not make a contribution)

The second question relates to a person who may either sit on a City Board, or Chair a City Board or committee. Are there any restrictions on this person with respect to either contributing to my campaign, and or soliciting others, if it is made clear that during the solicitation that the Board/Committee member is calling as a volunteer of my campaign?

I thank you in advance for your guidance.