

DWQ 05-83

Gerald Sanchez called and we discussed the possibility of the BCC providing toilet exchanges and getting new toilets installed for seniors on limited income. Purpose is to allow the seniors to save on their water bill and preserve the water supply. Question was whether commissioners could take money out of their discretionary funds and use it for this purpose. Second question was whether the County could solicit those who sell toilets and plumbers to perform the installation. I concluded that if County passed a resolution indicating it was going to establish this type of program and seniors could apply for new toilets, it would be official county business, which would enable commissioners and other county employees to solicit on behalf of this purpose, as long it was a broad-based appeal. Finally, there is nothing in the Code of Ethics ordinance that would preclude commissioners from using some of their discretionary funds for this purpose, as there is no direct benefit to them.

May 24, 2005