

Meyers, Robert (COE)

INQ 05-182

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2005 4:08 PM
To: 'O'Quinn, Marvin'
Subject: RE:

Marvin,

Technically, there doesn't seem to be a violation of the County's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance due to the fact Mr. Holtz and his companies are not doing business with the Public Health Trust. Our office also checked to determine whether his companies transact business with Miami-Dade County and we found nothing to indicate that he has a current or pending contractual relationship with County. Moreover, I realize the important role the Foundation plays in raising funds for the hospital and the generosity of Mr. Holtz enables Jackson Memorial to better serve the community.

Having said all of the above, if I were in your position, I would pay for cruise. My conclusion is not so much based upon any legal restrictions that would bar you from accepting the gift but based more on perceptions that could be created if you went on the cruise gratis. Obviously, Abel Holtz is a prominent figure in the community and I'm not certain it sends the right message for public employees at the executive level to accept fairly substantial gifts from community leaders.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss.

Thanks,

Robert Meyers

From: O'Quinn, Marvin [mailto:MOQuinn@um-jmh.org]
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2005 4:56 PM
To: 'Rmeyers@miamidade.gov'
Subject:

Bob

I wanted to follow-up with you regarding our discussion. I have been invited on a boat cruise in Turkey. The owner of the cruise line is Abel Holtz. He invited me as well as a number of other individuals from Miami. Abel Holtz and his family have been big supporters of Jackson particularly the Children's Hospital. I will be responsible for my and my wife's air fare, but the Cruise will be without cost to us. The Cruise is an inaugural launching. Abel Holtz is a member of the Jackson Memorial Foundation which is a free standing 501c.3. organization (not a part of the County) whose purpose is to support Jackson by raising funds for the hospital. To the best of my knowledge Jackson has no contractual relationships with Abel Holtz or any of his companies and I cannot think of any possibility of any in the near future.

I am aware that I will have to report this as a gift. I would like your opinion as to whether I should pay for the cruise.

Thank you

Marvin O'Quinn

11/2/2005