

Meyers, Robert (COE)

ING 06-71

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2006 2:48 PM
To: Alvarez, Mariela (WASD)
Subject: RE: Request for a Legal Opinion

Ms. Alvarez,

Thank you for your e-mail. There is no restriction in the county's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance that would preclude you from having a meal with a prospective or current vendor. I would recommend, however, that you cover the cost of your meal.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director
 Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

From: Alvarez, Mariela (WASD)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2006 12:42 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Request for a Legal Opinion
Importance: High

Good Afternoon Mr. Meyers:

I just got off the telephone with an Ethics Hotline investigator and he suggested I email you for a legal opinion.

Just to give you some history, I am new to the County. I joined the County in Dec/2005. Prior to my arrival here, I worked for Florida Power & Light Company for 26 years, also in Customer Service. While at FPL, I benchmarked many different processes and procedures and implemented many. As I transitioned here, I have been able to provide some of that insight to help improve customer service processes here at Water & Sewer as they come about. Recently, I recommended we speak to a vendor, who has a good product and is willing to come down from Philadelphia for a demonstration on an outbound IVR technology. I happen to know from my previous life, that they are the most competitive in their field. I worked on this project with FPL and found out during the RPF that they are also the only vendors with this product that have "ZERO" start-up fees. I told my Chief about it and he wanted them to come down for a demonstration of their product. The vendor agreed to come down.

Now, here's the request for a legal opinion. One of the vendors who is coming down owns vacation rental property in Tennessee, just like I do. However, he built his own property and I have always bought already built. I am interested in building and he has a lot of leg work information since that's what he has done. I do not have any business with him or his wife, once we found out about our mutual interest, we noticed we had this in common. I have spoken to him about this maybe a total of 3 times in the scope of 1 year. However, now that he's in town, he has invited me to dinner to talk about TN. This is because he knows no one here and it would be nice to discuss retirement future in TN. Once again, we are mere acquaintances and I have nothing to gain from him at all other than social type info. However, I want to make sure it is not viewed in any negative light if I do accept his dinner invitation.

Would it be OK for me to join him for dinner? His visit to Florida is 5/31/2006.

5/22/2006

Thanks in advance

Mariela Alvarez
Customer Service Manager – Field Section
Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department
Office (786) 552-8532
Fax (786) 552-8826
Mobile (786) 218-5841
miamidade.gov
"Delivering Excellence Every Day"

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5/22/2006