

## Ethics (COE)

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**From:** Ethics (COE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2006 1:48 PM  
**To:** Quintela, Pete (BCCO)  
**Subject:** RE: Meals

FNQ 06-89

Mr. Quintela,

Is the yearly meeting you refer to in your e-mail held in Miami-Dade or is it out of town? If the meetings are out of town, who is paying for the travel? As you know, County vendors are not permitted to pay travel or travel-related expenses of County employees. Assuming this is not the case, as a general rule, our office has held that an individual who is acting in his/her official capacity on behalf of the County – in your case making a speech – would not have to report the lunch as a gift.

If the meetings are out of the area and paid for by County vendors, please get back to me. Otherwise, you can rely on my conclusion about not having to report in gift.

Sincerely,

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

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**From:** Quintela, Pete (BCCO)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2006 10:02 AM  
**To:** Ethics (COE)  
**Subject:** Meals

I work for the Office of Building Code Compliance, as part of my duties I conduct training code forums and attend industry related group meetings in order to disseminate information relating to the building codes, sometimes meals are served during the events.

One of the industry groups conducts a yearly meeting in which a meal is served and inspectors are invited to participate as guests, with the goal being better communication and getting to know one another.

My question is the following, is there an ethics violation if in the course of my duties I attend a meeting in which a meal is provided for myself as a guest speaker, and the value of the meal is approximately \$25.00 to \$40.00 (considering the price of things nowadays) ?

I thank you for any guidance you can provide in this matter.

*Pete Quintela, Chief of Mechanical Compliance  
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