

Meyers, Robert (COE)

INQ 01-25

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2001 10:41 AM
To: Fuentes-Johns, Yolanda (Park & Rec)
Subject: RE: Feedback for Ethics Training

Yolanda,

Here are my responses:

- 1 a. Not a good idea if firm is doing business with the County
b. Okay
c. Okay
2. Whatever the cost is to the general public, any discount would have to be reported as gift.
3. Should not be accepted, irrespective of price. If accepted and more than \$25, must be disclosed. Accepting the orchid may not be a violation of the law, assuming that the County employee does not promise a return favor, however, accepting gifts from contractors create the wrong impression.
4. If incidental and occasion, it's probably okay as long as County is reimbursed for any costs the County incurs as a result of these activities.
5. This is a very bad idea: it shouldn't be tolerated.
6. Once again, it should be discouraged. Certain sites should clearly be off-limits.
7. As a general rule, I wouldn't encourage it.
8. What do you mean by a betting pool? If a group of employee agree to buy a certain number of lottery tickets each week and pool their winnings, I don't see a problem with it. Once again, anything that distracts employees from doing their County job or engaging in extracurricular activities on County time presents a problem. Obviously, with respect to this question, the County has no interest in promoting gambling.

I hope this helps.

Robert

-----Original Message-----

From: Fuentes-Johns, Yolanda (Park & Rec)
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2001 8:08 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: Allgood, John (Park & Rec)
Subject: Feedback for Ethics Training

Hi Robert,

I'll be delivering the next round of Ethics Training to Parks staff in September. Will you provide some informal responses to the following questions presented by staff so I can share with them during the training sessions?:

1. have lunch paid for by...
 - a. a manufacturer's sales rep. ?
 - b. a colleague from another park and recreation department?
 - c. the executive director from your professional association?
2. trees for your home from a nursery that has a contract with the county...
 - a. for free?
 - b. for wholesale price?
 - c. for retail price?
3. accepting an orchid from a contractor at Christmas...
 - a. worth \$20 dollars?
 - b. worth \$30 dollars?
4. Using County phone, fax, computers, time, office supplies, materials for personal needs
5. Fudging the PAR
6. Surfing the internet
7. Using E-mail to send out jokes, items of interest but not related to work (poems, stories)

8. Playing the lottery as a group (a betting pool)
This will help tremendously.
Thanks.

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Meyers, Robert (COE)

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2001 11:35 AM
To: Fuentes-Johns, Yolanda (Park & Rec)
Subject: RE: More informal responses requested

Yolanda,

I'm happy to oblige.

- 1) Definitely a problem. Sounds like a Cone of Silence violation.
- 2) As a general rule, this would be unacceptable.
- 3) I'm not sure I understand this question. If the person is doing volunteer work, then that person is not entitled to be paid. If the person is engaged in outside employment, he/she has to get approval.
- 4) Not a violation of the County's Code of Ethics.
- 5) This sounds like exploitation of official position -- it really doesn't matter what the reason is for giving special treatment to a party.
- 6) The law states the gift cannot be accepted if there is return promise by the County employee. If no return promise, then if the gift exceeds \$25, it must be reported. Understand that the County Attorney's position is that no gifts, regardless of value or amount, should be accepted by customers.
- 7) This sounds like criminal behavior to me.
- 8) Not a county ethics violation.
- 9) Not a county ethics violation.

Keep the questions coming!

Robert

-----Original Message-----

From: Fuentes-Johns, Yolanda (Park & Rec)
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2001 7:30 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: Aligood, John (Park & Rec)
Subject: More informal responses requested

Robert,

Thanks for your prompt responses to my first request.

I'm glad to see that I am getting as much feedback from our managers as I have been.

At your convenience, please provide informal responses to the following:

1. Conflict of interest by providing information about the process of a particular RFP to a potential permittee because of a personal interest.
2. Using county equipment for personal use.
3. Accept money from community workers in exchange of hours .
4. Negative comments about our dept. operation , procedures , rules and regulations , etc. to the public or subordinates.
5. Special treatment towards certain individuals due to a personal political affiliation.
6. Accept gifts or favors from customers.
7. Improper use of county funds.
8. First hand experience with one of our long time employees being unethical. The employee was submitting false information to a professional organization regarding their salary to avoid paying the higher membership fee. When confronted about it, the reply was, that is what I have always paid and if the professional organization don't accept it, I guess it's time for me to leave.

9. An employee while on duty at a program park, stands around his friends while they smoke pot at his job site.

Thanks.

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