

Meyers, Robert (COE)

INQ 03-124

To: Thompson, Terrence (GSA)

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Subject: RE: Question

The Ethics Commission has consistently held that County employees may solicit gifts in their official capacity for charitable causes, provided these solicitations are fairly broad. Therefore, it would not be acceptable to simply ask County vendors or prospective County vendors for gifts or donations. In your case, asking Walmart and Toys-R-Us for toys for the underprivileged seems reasonable. I'm assuming, of course, that these companies do not have contracts to do business with the County.

Robert Meyers

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

From: Thompson, Terrence (GSA)

Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2003 12:07 PM

To: Meyers, Robert (COE)

Cc: McGriff, Bernard (GSA); Norris, Wendi (GSA) (305) 375-2495; Cabrera, Aimee (GSA)

Subject: Question

Mr. Meyers:

I have a question that I hope you are able to assist me with. GSA is hosting a holiday luncheon for underprivileged children on Friday December 19, 2003. We will be handing out gifts from Santa and singing Christmas carols with the children. My question to you: Is it against County policy or any ethical violation to ask stores like Toys R Us or Wal-Mart to donate toys for the cause. Please advise. Thank you in advance for your time and attention.

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