

# Memo

**To:** Ondina E. Brusso  
Administrative Assistant  
Office of Safe Neighborhood Parks

**From:** Ardyth Walker  
Staff General Counsel

**Date:** March 5, 2003

**Re:** INQUIRY 03-12

---

I received your request for an informal opinion regarding Fairchild Tropical Garden's offer of a discount for your daughter's wedding reception. Since this is an informal opinion, the Ethics Commission has not considered this matter. You may still request a formal opinion from the Ethics Commission.

In your request, you advised me that you work for the Office Of Safe Neighborhood Parks. The Safe Neighborhood Parks bond program awards four million dollars in grants to the Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation department for projects at Fairchild Tropical Garden. The Office of Safe Neighborhood Parks does not contract directly with Fairchild Tropical Garden.

The Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance permits you to accept the discount. The discount is a gift under the Conflict of Interest ordinance. Section 2-11.1(e)(1) defines a gift as anything of economic value that is received without lawful and adequate consideration. An employee may receive a gift as long as the gift is not in exchange for any official action which has been taken or could be taken.

The discount must be reported as a gift. Any gift of twenty-five dollars or more must be reported on a quarterly basis to the Department of Elections.

Please contact me at 350-0616 if you have additional questions.

INQ 03-12

Ms. Ondina E. Brusso  
Administrative Assistant  
Office of Safe Neighborhood Parks  
10710 S.W. 211<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 109  
Miami, FL 33189  
Phone No.: (305) 971-5055  
Fax No.: (305) 971-5060  
E-Mail Address: [ondina@miamidade.gov](mailto:ondina@miamidade.gov)

February 27, 2003

Ms. Ardyth Walker, Attorney  
Miami-Dade County  
Commission on Ethics & Public Trust  
19 West Flagler Street, Suite 220  
Miami, FL 33130

Dear Ms. Walker:

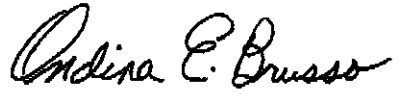
I work for the Office of Safe Neighborhood Park and I am writing you to request a legal opinion for a discount that Fairchild Tropical Garden is offering me for renting a ballroom in its property for my daughter's wedding reception.

The Safe Neighborhood Park bond program under Ordinance No. 96-115 awards \$4 million in funds to Miami-Dade County, Park and Recreation Department for specific projects at Fairchild Tropical Garden. Our office has a contract with the County Parks Department. They in turn sub-contract with Fairchild Tropical Garden. This Office does not have a contractual relationship with Fairchild Tropical Garden.

Dr. Beverly N. Mirman, Director of Safe Neighborhood Parks and myself would like to have something in writing telling us that is fine to accept this discount.

Thank you for your response and if you have any questions, please call me at (305) 971-5055.

Sincerely,



Ondina E. Brusso  
Administrative Assistant

C: Dr. Beverly N. Mirman