

Meyers, Robert (COE)

To: Vargas, Sonia M. (MDHA)
Subject: RE: Question-Corporate Run

JNG
04-35

Ms. Vargas,

The County Commission recently amended the Code of Ethics Ordinance that bars vendors from paying for travel and travel-related expenses for County officials and employees. It probably doesn't extend to this scenario, but it may establish a general trend that attempts to reduce the level of influence that vendors have over County personnel. Another point -- was the owner of the building solicited to underwrite the cost of the tent or did the owner simply offer? Assume the owner made the offer, then it wouldn't violate Conflict of Interest Ordinance if the Department accepted it, but the value of gift would have to be disclosed.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

Thanks,

Robert Meyers

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

From: Vargas, Sonia M. (MDHA)
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2004 10:02 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: Topinka, John (MDHA); Dames, Ellis (MDHA)
Subject: Question-Corporate Run

Mr. Meyers:

MDHA is participating in the corporate run. The owner of our leased office buildings has offered to sponsor us by paying for a \$ 300 tent for our department. Is it ethical for our department to accept or should we decline the offer?

Thanks for your response.

Sonia Vargas