

# The Miami Herald

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## No free ride

The Miami Herald Editorial  
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When it comes to complimentary tickets, Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado wants to keep the city's hands out of the cookie jar. His proposal is the smartest response to a report by the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust that slammed several municipalities for how they handled freebie tickets to some of the hottest events in town.

Basically, officials in many cities snatched up tickets to baseball games, symphony performances, tennis tournaments and such and used the freebies as if they had paid full freight. They hadn't. But they handed out the tickets to family, friends and deep-pocketed supporters anyway. Miami Beach, in a blazing display of entitlement, withheld a \$15 million reimbursement grant from the New World Symphony in an attempt to demand — or is “extort” the better word? — tickets to the new facility.

Mr. Regalado proposes to allow the mayor, city manager and commissioners to request tickets for “permissible public purposes.” But the policy would prevent tickets from flowing through administrators' and commissioners' offices. As long as “permissible public purposes” means the tickets can be requested for needy and deserving constituents — nonprofits, children's organizations, you get the idea — then city commissioners should get behind the mayor's proposal.

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