

Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)

From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 10:33 AM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Rokeishanik Dabney, Contract Certification Specialist II, ISD (gifts) INQ 18-14

INQ 18-14 Dabney

From: Turay, Radia (COE)
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 4:07 PM
To: Dabney, Rokeishanik (ISD) <Keisha.Dabney@miamidadegov>
Subject: INQ 18-14, Rokeishanik Dabney, Contract Certification Specialist II, ISD (gifts)

Dear Ms. Dabney,

You inquire whether a prohibited conflict of interest would exist where you are seeking to purchase products from a company that you certified as a County vendor through your County employment.

Background

- You are employed as a certification specialist in Miami-Dade County Internal Services Department, Small Business development Division.
- Through your employment in the County, you certified and approved a business named Pappu Natural Products. The company specializes in organic products, such as shampoos, room sprays, antibacterial cleaning products, and personal hygiene products.
- You have no financial or ownership interest in the business.
- You are not seeking to enter into any contract with Pappu Natural Products.
- You will have no involvement in any contract that the Company will seek at Miami-Dade County.
- You are simply seeking to purchase products from the company, as might any member of the public.

Analysis

Section 2-11.1(e) of the County Ethics Ordinance governs gifts, and disclosure of gifts is addressed in Section 2-11.1(e)(4) of the ordinance. Under the latter section, gifts, or a series of gifts received from any one person or entity, which have a value in excess of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), must be disclosed by public officials or employees in the County on the form required by Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, for "local officers."

Under Section 2-11.1(e)(1), a gift is defined as the "transfer of anything of economic value...without adequate and lawful consideration." Based on the information you have provided, any item that you purchase from Pappu Natural Products, will not be considered as a gift under the Ethics Code as you have represented that any item you purchase from the company shall be set at a price and upon terms available to similarly situated members of the general public; you will not ask for any discounts from the company, nor is one being offered to you; and you will go through the company's normal purchasing process utilized by similarly situated members of the general public.

Please be aware, that Section 2-11.1(g), County Ethics Code, specifically prohibits County employees from using their official County position to secure privileges or exemptions for themselves or others. We therefore, recommend that in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety, all purchases from the company must be conducted at "arms-length" and "in the ordinary course of business." See Sec. 2-11.1(u) of the Ethics Code. Further, make an effort to avoid interacting with the same individuals with whom you interacted in your County role.

This opinion is based on the facts presented. If any of these facts change, please contact us.

Sincerely,

RADIA TURAY

Staff Attorney
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From: Dabney, Rokeishanik (ISD)
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 5:01 PM
To: Ethics (COE) <ethics@miamidade.gov>
Subject: Opinion needed?

Good afternoon,

I am a certification specialist in Small Business Development, under Internal Services Department

In the recent past there was a firm I certified and approved by the name of Pappu Natural Products. This company specializes in organic products, such as shampoos, room sprays, antibacterial cleaning products, personal hygiene products, etc.

Am I able to purchase from this company, that of course being me paying the full price and going about the purchasing process as a normal customer would?

Best Regards,

Rokeishanik 'Keisha' Dabney, MPA, Contract Certification Specialist II
Miami-Dade County Internal Services Department
Small Business Development Division
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Small Business Certification forms link:
<http://www.miamidade.gov/smallbusiness/enterprise-programs.asp>

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