

Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)

From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 3:38 PM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: FW: INQ 18-184 FW: Opinion needed on "Free" IBM Cyber Range Public Experience
Attachments: Travel Justification.doc; IBM Cyber Range.pdf

Importance: High

INQ 18-184 Cardoso

From: Murawski, Michael P. (COE)
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 3:32 PM
To: Cardoso, Mirta Lopez (ITD) <Mirta.Cardoso@miamidade.gov>
Cc: Vazquez, Milagros "Milly" (ITD) <Milagros.Vazquez@miamidade.gov>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <Martha.Perez2@miamidade.gov>
Subject: FW: INQ 18-184 FW: Opinion needed on "Free" IBM Cyber Range Public Experience
Importance: High

INQ18-184

Dear Ms. Cardoso:

You have inquired whether Fabian Escobar, a County employee, may accept a special training "Cyber Range Experience" (CRE) being provided by IBM at no cost, to all of its customers. IBM is a County vendor. The CRE is a comprehensive simulation where security and business professionals can prepare for and respond to cyber-attacks targeting their business. The one day program takes place in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Section 2-11.1(w) of the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance entitled "Prohibition on acceptance of travel expense from County vendors" prohibits County employees from accepting, directly or indirectly, any travel expenses including but not limited to transportation, lodging, meals, registration fees and incidentals from any County vendor.

You have advised that the County will pay for all travel expenses for Mr. Escobar, including airfare, hotel and per diem. It is noted, however, from the CRE brochure, that the CRE program designates a "lunch" from 1:00 to 1:30 on August 14 (the day of the program) and an optional cocktail hour and group dinner on Monday August 13, 2018. It is not clear whether IBM is providing CRE participants with lunch or whether the lunch is "on your own."

In any event, previous opinions, (see INQ 15-94 and RQO05-110) have held that County employees may **not** accept meals that are included in a program such as CRE from County vendors unless the employee or the County pays for the reasonable value of the food or unless the Board of County Commissioners waives the restriction in the ordinance.

If there was a registration fee for the CRE program which was paid for by the County or the employee, we have opined that, in those circumstances, an employee may partake of the incidental lunch or cocktail hour if that is included in the registration fee. However, you have made clear that there is no registration fee being paid for this CRE event; IBM is providing it free of charge to its customers.

Accordingly, it is my opinion, and I realize that the County ordinance makes this a somewhat absurd result, but Mr. Escobar **may** attend the free CRE event as long as all travel related expenses are paid for by the County or by Mr. Escobar. He may not accept any free meals provided by IBM unless he or the County pay for their reasonable value.

If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact me.

From: Cardoso, Mirta Lopez (ITD)
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 5:57 PM
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>
Cc: Vazquez, Milagros "Milly" (ITD) <Milagros.Vazquez@miamidade.gov>
Subject: Opinion needed on "Free" IBM Cyber Range Public Experience
Importance: High

Good afternoon Gilma,

Please review and confirm your approval of this training request offered by IBM free of charge. The special training is offered to all government security customers on a first come first served basis.

A summary of the training follows, and additional information is attached.

Hands-on Cyber Range experience which will provide the opportunity to immerse in a comprehensive simulation allowing to prepare for, and respond to cyber attacks attacking businesses. The cyber range offers a unique opportunity to practice security-related crisis leadership skills in a dedicated, safe and collaborative environment. Allows operation of real tools, investigate active infections, and respond to internal and external cyber security events geared at Governments, Healthcare, Life sciences & Education spanning legal, regulatory disclosures, and media relations. Benefits of attending: Reinforce end-to-end crisis management, improve communication between security analysts and senior management as well as media relations. Exercise sound decision making during the most advanced simulated attacks, including ransomware, phishing, ICS/SCADA, botnets, and other advanced/zero day attacks.

<https://www.ibm.com/security/services/managed-security-services/security-operations-centers>

Although they offer this training at no cost to their customers, the county has a contract with IBM under which we spend in excess of \$6 million per year, including specific services for "Disaster Recovery" among the many products and services provided by IBM.

We will appreciate your prompt response so that we may proceed with the request for approval of the travel portion, which needs the Mayor's approval.

Sincerely,

Mirta Lopez Cardoso, CPPO, IT Senior Contracts & Procurement Officer
Miami-Dade County Information Technology Department
5680 S.W. 87th Ave, Miami, Florida 33173
(305) 596-8690 phone
(305) 275-7696 fax

www.miamidade.gov

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Travel/Education Justification Form

(Copy to be submitted to OMB, together with travel request)

Attendance Information

Name	FABIAN ESCOBAR	Title	Senior Security Systems Engineer	Division	ITD
Dates of Travel	8/10/2018 8/15/2018	Dates of Conference/Seminar Course	AUG 14, 2018		
Name of Conference/Seminar/Course	Cyber Range Public Sector Experience				

Travel Criteria

Purpose of Trip _____ Security related immersion opportunity providing comprehensive simulation to prepare for and respond to cyber attacks affecting businesses.

Description of Conference/Seminar/Course _____ The cyber range offers a unique opportunity to practice security-related crisis leadership skills in a dedicated, safe and collaborative environment. Allows operation of real tools, investigate active infections, and respond to internal and external cyber security events geared at Governments, Healthcare, Life sciences & Education spanning legal, regulatory disclosures, and media relations.

Benefits of attending: _____
Reinforce end-to-end crisis management, improve communication between security analysts and senior management as well as media relations. Exercise sound decision making during the most advanced simulated attacks, including ransomware, phishing, ICS/SCADA, botnets, and other advanced/zero day attacks.

This trip is necessary because it is the only cost effective or feasible way to realize the following objective.
Explain: _____ CyberRange and training opportunity only available on location in Cambridge, MA

Reason that more than one person is sent: _____

Travel Criteria

If more than one person travels, are you willing to share a room?

Travel by air or county car?

Is ground transportation provided to and from airport?

To and from the site of conference/seminar/class?

Is the seminar within walking distance of the hotel?

Check One

Yes	No
Air	Car
x	
Yes	No
	x
	x
x	

Allowance for ground transportation to cover shuttle, taxi, bus, mileage, please specify mode and amount: _____

\$70 ONE-WAY

Justification for car: NA

List meals included in registration fee: Lunch

Request amount for communication (to appear on hotel bill): _____

Financial

	Estimated	Actual	Index Code	Sub Object
Total Request				
1. Travel Related Expenses	\$1908.28	\$	ET11ETLOSU	32020
2. Tuition/Registration	\$	\$		

Authorization:

	Print Name	Signature	Date
1. Requestor –	FABIAN ESCOBAR	<<Digital Signature Below>>	JUL 9, 2018
2. Division Director			
3. Assistant Director			

APPROVAL BY DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR _____

Date _____

X

Fabian Escobar