

## Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)

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**From:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 07, 2018 9:36 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)  
**Subject:** Darren Caprara, Director of Operations, Miami-Dade County Office of the Medical Examiner (Gifts) INQ 18-31

INQ 18-31 Caprara

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**From:** Centorino, Joseph (COE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 01, 2018 4:17 PM  
**To:** Caprara, Darren (ME) <Darren.Caprara@miamidade.gov>  
**Cc:** Turay, Radia (COE) <Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <Martha.Perez2@miamidade.gov>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>; Sanchez, Gerald (CAO) <Gerald.Sanchez@miamidade.gov>; Kirtley, Eddie (CAO) <Eddie.Kirtley@miamidade.gov>  
**Subject:** INQ 18-31 Darren Caprara, Director of Operations, Miami-Dade County Office of the Medical Examiner (Gifts)

Mr. Caprara,

The acceptance by the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner's office of the donation from VITAS Hospice of a pedestal valued in excess of \$1000 as well as palm trees and catering, all of which could exceed \$2000, for the purpose of honoring the late Dr. Bruce Hyma, the longtime director of the ME's office, at the ceremony renaming the County Cemetery as the Dr. Bruce A. Hyma Memorial Cemetery, would not, in my opinion violate any provisions of the County Code of Ethics. Gifts provided for the sole use and benefit of the County are generally exempt from the County gift ordinance in Section 2-11.1(e) of the Code. The donation is not for the benefit of any individual connected to the county, but rather for the benefit of the County. Coming from an entity such as VITAS Hospice and being intended to honor an individual such as Dr. Hyman, it does not appear that there would likely be any purpose to the gift other than the honoring of an individual deemed worthy of such commemoration.

Sincerely,

Joe Centorino

*Joseph M. Centorino*

Executive Director and General Counsel  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
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Miami, FL 33130  
Tel: (305) 579-2594  
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**From:** Sibilial, Rhonda (COE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 01, 2018 3:14 PM  
**To:** Caprara, Darren (ME) <[Darren.Caprara@miamidade.gov](mailto:Darren.Caprara@miamidade.gov)>  
**Cc:** Centorino, Joseph (COE) <[Joseph.Centorino@miamidade.gov](mailto:Joseph.Centorino@miamidade.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Quick question

Hi Darren,

I'm not an attorney and do not dare answer an ethics question like that.... besides, I used to work for VITAS. I'm copying our executive director, Joe Centorino, for his response.

Regards,

Rhonda

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**From:** Caprara, Darren (ME)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 01, 2018 3:10 PM  
**To:** Sibilial, Rhonda (COE) <[Rhonda.Sibilial@miamidade.gov](mailto:Rhonda.Sibilial@miamidade.gov)>  
**Subject:** Quick question

Rhonda,

We are planning a tribute ceremony for Dr. Hyma at the County Cemetery (April 13<sup>th</sup>). At the ceremony, the County cemetery will be officially renamed "Dr. Bruce A. Hyma Memorial Cemetery".

VITAS Hospice, an organization that we deal with regularly as many of their patients are signed over for County-arranged cremation and scattering, would like to help with the ceremony.

As I understand it they get donations and, as a part of the <https://vitascommunityconnection.org/community-connection> program, are able to use that money in the community.

They are willing to buy a very nice \$1,000+ pedestal which would feature an engraved picture of Dr. Hyma along with his story.

They also would like to buy a couple of palm trees as perhaps even pay for catering. The money totals could approach or exceed \$2K.

This doesn't seem to qualify as a gift and we don't really have a fiscal relationship with them ... but do you think I should seek an ethics opinion just to be safe?

Thanks in advance,  
Darren

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**From:** Sibilial, Rhonda (COE)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 06, 2017 10:53 AM  
**To:** Caprara, Darren (ME) <[Darren.Caprara@miamidade.gov](mailto:Darren.Caprara@miamidade.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Preparing for Wednesday

Great. I'll plan to be there around 2 pm.

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**From:** Caprara, Darren (ME)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 06, 2017 10:49 AM  
**To:** Sibilía, Rhonda (COE) <[Rhonda.Sibilía@miamidade.gov](mailto:Rhonda.Sibilía@miamidade.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Preparing for Wednesday

We only have a small ice machine. But we should be able to refrigerate. I have to go to the BCC in the AM, but my afternoon is wide open.

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**From:** Sibilía, Rhonda (COE)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 06, 2017 10:33 AM  
**To:** Caprara, Darren (ME) <[Darren.Caprara@miamidade.gov](mailto:Darren.Caprara@miamidade.gov)>  
**Subject:** Preparing for Wednesday  
**Importance:** High

Hi Darren,

We have close to 30 people confirmed for Wednesday's presentation/lunch.

Please let me know if I may come by tomorrow – probably early afternoon – to drop off some sodas and paper goods, and scope out the set up. Do you have ice and/or can you refrigerate the bottles overnight? I will also place the food order with Panera.

Thanks,



**Rhonda Victor Sibilía**, Communications Director  
**Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust**  
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