

Meyers, Robert (COE)

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, January 02, 2007 10:56 AM
To: Campbell, Kyndal (Vizcaya)
Subject: RE: Opinion Needed

Kyndal,

Thanks for the clarification. Knowing that Miami-Dade County is member of the GMCVB changes my opinion. The exception to the rule you cite seems to apply in this case. Given the fact that the travel is related to Vizcaya's membership means that the GMCVB may cover the cost of the travel for the Vizcaya employee to attend the trade show without having to receive a waiver from the Board of County Commissioners.

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

Robert

From: Campbell, Kyndal (Vizcaya)
Sent: Tuesday, January 02, 2007 10:06 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: RE: Opinion Needed

Thanks Robert.

One other quick question... I read language in the Ethics Ordinance that states that "the prohibition does not apply to travel expenses paid for by other governmental entities or organizations of which the County is a member if the travel is related to that membership". Miami-Dade County (and Vizcaya as well) are members of the GMCVB and this particular travel is related to Vizcaya's membership. Does this affect your opinion in any way?

Thank you for your response.

Kyndal

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

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, January 02, 2007 9:18 AM
To: Campbell, Kyndal (Vizcaya)
Subject: RE: Opinion Needed

Hi Kyndal,

I read the facts contained within your request for opinion and I agree that the relevant section of ethics code would preclude the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau from paying any travel costs incurred by a Vizcaya staff member to attend the Berlin trade show. In order for a waiver to be granted, a County Commissioner would have to offer a resolution to this effect and it would have to be approved by a simple majority. It seems to me that a waiver is appropriate under these circumstances, but the ordinance doesn't give the Ethics Commission any role in granting or denying the waiver request. Hope you understand.

Good luck and keep me apprised of the situation.

Thanks,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director

1/2/2007

Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
(305) 350-0613

From: Campbell, Kyndal (Vizcaya)
Sent: Friday, December 29, 2006 4:25 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Opinion Needed

Good Afternoon Robert,

Vizcaya staff members work very closely with the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau to help ensure that attractions and museums in Miami are promoted to the fullest extent possible.

One initiative that was recently adopted by the Bureau was to facilitate attraction representation at major domestic and international travel trade shows, with the intent that a single attraction representative would "sell" all Miami area attractions. As you can imagine, most attractions and non-profits cannot afford to participate in sales activities at this level. The Bureau pays for air travel, hotel and trade show registration. The attraction representative pays for incidental expenses and meals. A colleague at Miami Seaquarium attended World Travel Market in London in November, representing the attractions and museums of Miami.

The GMCVB staff and in-market rep will exhibit with VISIT Florida at ITB, a travel trade show in Berlin (over 5 days) in early March. Estimated attendance is 4,000 travel professionals from Eastern Europe and 100,000 consumers. Participation is limited to six members. The bureau has asked a Vizcaya staff member to represent the attraction partners at this important travel show.

The question is: may the County-employed Vizcaya staff member accept the offer to represent area museums and attractions at a trade show for which the bulk of the travel expenses are paid for by the GMCVB? The GMCVB is considered a registered County vendor by the Department of Procurement Management.

If not, is this situation eligible for a waiver?

The case studies with which we were provided during our Ethics refresher course were helpful, but still left me wondering about this.

Please advise. The GMCVB must find an alternate if the Vizcaya staff member is not permitted to attend (on their dime as our budget would not permit Vizcaya to pay) so a prompt response would be very much appreciated.

Thank you and have a Happy New Year!

Kyndal Campbell, Intergovernmental Affairs Director
Vizcaya Museum and Gardens
305.860.8450
www.miamidade.gov
"Delivering Excellence Every Day"