

**Meyers, Robert (COE)**

**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 08, 2007 5:06 PM  
**To:** Hoffman, Joel (Vizcaya)  
**Subject:** RE: Question for Ethics Commission

Dear Joel,

Thank you for your questions. There are no restrictions placed on County personnel who decide to donate gifts they have received from others. Therefore, it seems perfectly reasonable for Vizcaya staff members to donate these gifts to either the Vizcayans or any other non-profit organization. Obviously, gifts that are donated by employees do not have to be reported, but I would advise your employees to maintain records to indicate the gifts were transferred to third parties.

If you have wish to discuss the above, feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Thanks,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
(305) 350-0613

**From:** Hoffman, Joel (Vizcaya)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 05, 2007 3:36 PM  
**To:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Cc:** Campbell, Kyndal (Vizcaya)  
**Subject:** Question for Ethics Commission

Dear Robert,

I am writing to receive an opinion from the Ethics Commission pertaining to the acceptance of gifts.

On occasion, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens staff members receive a material gift (neither cash nor edibles) from clients who have had an event at Vizcaya or from dignitaries who have visited the property. Such gifts are tokens of gratitude for a successful event or visit. Vizcaya staff do not personally accept such gifts. I would like to know the following:

Can such gifts be donated on behalf of the County to the Museum's private, non-profit support group, The Vizcayans, for auction at one of their fundraising events, which are intended to benefit Vizcaya Museum and Gardens?

In the event that The Vizcayans do not believe such a gift can be auctioned and Vizcaya staff do not wish to return the gift (either because an expense will be involved in doing so or because a dignitary may be offended by such a gesture), can the gift be donated on behalf of the County to another non-profit entity for its benefit?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joel M. Hoffman  
Executive Director  
Vizcaya Museum and Gardens

1/8/2007