

Meyers, Robert (COE)

ING 07-158

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2007 2:42 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Inquiry

I spoke to Maria Llevano in County Commissioner Pepe Diaz' office and she presented two questions: 1) Does the Commissioner have to report the gifts of flowers that were sent to the funeral home after his grandmother passed away and 2) Can the Commissioner write a letter to intervene on behalf of a constituent-church attempting to gain access to Direct TV. I advised Maria that due to the fact the flowers were not a gift to the commissioner, it was not a reportable event. Regarding the letter to Direct TV, I inquired whether Commissioner Diaz was soliciting Direct TV to give free airtime to the church or whether the letter was simply an effort to help a constituent gain access to the company. Maria believed it was the latter, which resulted in an opinion that held that Commissioner Diaz could use his letterhead on behalf of his constituent. This amounts to service to one's constituents and as long as Commissioner Diaz would treat all of his constituents the same who made similar requests of his office, he would not be exploiting his official position by sending a letter to Direct TV.

Robert Meyers
October 3, 2007

10/3/2007