

**Meyers, Robert (COE)**

INQ 08-76

**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 06, 2008 2:09 PM  
**To:** Suarez, Carmen (ETSD)  
**Subject:** RE: Questions for you

Ms. Suarez,

Thank you for your question. It is outside the scope of my authority to give advice about liability you were to attend this workshop in Jacksonville. All I can tell you is that the vendor cannot pay for the travel unless you receive a waiver from the Board of County Commissioners. Assuming your department does not have the funds to cover the cost of travel and you decide to pay for the travel, I believe these expenses would be tax deductible, but you should check with an accountant.

Sincerely,

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

**From:** Suarez, Carmen (ETSD)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 05, 2008 11:18 AM  
**To:** Walker, Ardyth (COE); Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Subject:** Questions for you

I don't know if you will know the answer to my current questions but since you were so helpful last time that I am starting with you .... I have the opportunity to attend the technical event that is detailed in the attached flyer. It is a free event to all IBM customers but it is being held in Jacksonville. The information being covered is directly related to my daily job duties. Since our travel has been cut due to our dismal countywide budget situation I have told my supervisor that I will drive up or fly up on my own dollar. I am requesting that I be granted educational leave for the day since I will be attending for the benefit of my county job.

My supervisor is concerned that if he grants educational leave and something happens to me during travel then the county has liabilities. Therefore he prefers that I do not attend. He also feels that it is not fair for me to take on the fiscal responsibility of this travel. But, I am certain that if I submit a travel request for this one day event it will not be approved.

What are your recommendations? Thank you.

**Carmen Suárez**, Systems Support Manager  
**Enterprise Technology Services Department**  
 5680 SW 87 Avenue Miami, FL 33173-1618  
 305-596-8437 Phone 305-596-8814 Fax  
 786-218-1066 Cellular 305-844-7993 Pager  
<http://www.miamidade.gov>

"Soon we will all have to choose between what is right and what is easy." Albus Dumbledore, Headmaster of Hogwarts

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5/6/2008