

Meyers, Robert (COE)**INQ 09-132**

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2009 1:14 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Inquiry

I received a telephone call from Xiomara Mordcovich, County Animal Services Department, on August 11, 2009 and she asked whether it was proper for an employee to circulate an e-mail to recruit Animal Services employees to participate in a weigh loss program. The e-mail stated the employees would be part of the Animal Services Department Biggest Loser team and the winner would receive a prize. Additionally, there would be an entry fee.

I advised Ms. Mordcovich that the e-mail may not be appropriate. The first concern is forming an Animal Services Department team. Unless there is some official action taken by Miami-Dade County to sponsor an Animal Services Team, there should be no reference to the department in future. Individual employees can agree to take part, but it should have nothing to do with one's County affiliation.

The second point of concern is related to the entry fee and a prize. It is not a random drawing, therefore, participating in such a competition may amount to a form of gambling, which the County generally does not support.

In conclusion, I advised Mr. Mordcovich that there was no problem with employees from her department competing with one another to lose weight, and to award a prize to the "biggest loser" as long as there was no reference to the County during the competition and the County resources were not devoted to this endeavor.

Robert Meyers
August 11, 2009

8/11/2009