

**Frigo, Victoria (COE)**

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**From:** Frigo, Victoria (COE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 3:46 PM  
**To:** 'Melvin Wolfe'  
**Subject:** Town of Medley Foundation Solicitation (INQ 10-97)

Mr. Wolfe,

You asked us to review a letter from Mayor Ramon Rodriguez, Mayor of the Town of Medley, seeking donations on behalf of the Town of Medley Foundation.

In sum, the Mayor's letter does not violate the County Ethics Code.

The County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (e)(2)(g) allows elected officials to solicit gifts on behalf of nonprofit organizations if the gift is used solely by that organization and as long as neither the elected official nor anyone on his staff receives any compensation as a result of the solicitation. Compensation is defined as any money, gift, favor, political contribution, thing of value, or other financial benefit.

We understand that the Town of Medley Foundation is 501(c)(3) Florida nonprofit corporation. You stated that no one in the town will be compensated as a result of the solicitation but that all households in Medley, including those of elected officials, receive turkeys for Thanksgiving.

Considering that the number of households of elected officials makes up less than 1.5% of the class of all households receiving turkeys, the gift to elected officials is not a special benefit that would affect the mayor in a manner distinct from the public generally. (In the 2000 census, Medley had 363 households; it currently has 5 elected officials.) Consequently, the prohibition regarding soliciting gifts is not triggered.

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Victoria Frigo, Staff Attorney](#)

[Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics](#)  
Direct Phone: 305 350-0601  
Fax: 305 579-0273



[19 West Flagler St., Suite 820](#)  
[Miami, FL 33130](#)

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**From:** Melvin Wolfe [<mailto:mwolfe@townofmedley.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 16, 2010 1:12 PM  
**To:** Frigo, Victoria (COE)  
**Subject:** RE: Town of Medley Foundation solicitation

Sorry this response took so long. I was on vacation. To answer the question----Absolutely Not!!! However, every household in Medley, including those of elected officials receive a Turkey for Thanksgiving, as a result of a

6/17/2010

program of the Foundation to see that every family in Medley does have a Holiday meal. Is the letter still OK? Thank you in advance for your assistance!

Very Truly Yours,  
Melvin Wolfe, Town Attorney  
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**From:** Frigo, Victoria (COE) [mailto:FRIGOV@miamidade.gov]  
**Sent:** Wed 6/2/2010 4:18 PM  
**To:** Melvin Wolfe  
**Cc:** Elizabel Gamboa  
**Subject:** Town of Medley Foundation solicitation

Hello Mel,

Robert Meyers asked me to follow up on reviewing the draft letter by Mayor Rodriquez soliciting funds for the Town of Medley Foundation.

As per the County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (e)(2)(g), municipal elected officials may solicit gifts on behalf of nonprofit organizations as long as neither the elected official nor his staff is compensated as a result of the solicitation.

My question is—do any city officials or city staff receive compensation from the Foundation? The County Code defines compensation as money, gift, favor, political contribution, thing of value, or other financial benefit.

Thanks,

Victoria Frigo, Staff Attorney

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