

Meyers, Robert (COE)

JNO 10-118

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2010 10:03 AM
To: Rockwell, Elizabeth (MPO)
Subject: RE: Opinion Request

Ms. Rockwell:

I received a reply from Clinton Forbes and he informed me that MDT Director established the benefit and it was put forward as a resolution by the chairman of the CTAC. Although this information is helpful as background, it doesn't have any impact on my analysis of the facts. The relevant facts are that members of the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) receive unlimited, complimentary MDT Easy Cars and Metrorail Parking Passes (a benefit of \$1,320 per year). You further state that not all advisory committee members receive this benefit. You wish to know whether these benefits create a conflict of interest for CTAC members when items involving Metro-Dade Transit come before CTAC.

Assuming the legal authority enables CTAC to adopt a resolution awarding benefits to its board members, the ethics code does not bar CTAC members from accepting these benefits. However, the members should report these benefits as gifts since the value exceeds \$100.

If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

From: Rockwell, Elizabeth (MPO)
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2010 2:03 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: RE: Opinion Request

Mr. Meyers,

Unfortunately, I am unaware as to how it was decided that each member would receive this benefit.

The benefit began when Mr. Clinton Forbes, presently MDT Assistant to the Director, held my position here at the MPO. Therefore, you may want to speak directly with him regarding this question to receive an accurate answer.

I apologize that I am unable to supply you with this specific information.

Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Regards,
Elizabeth Rockwell
Public Involvement Manager

6/28/2010

Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 920
Miami, FL 33128
305.375.1881
305.375.4950 Fax

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From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2010 11:46 AM
To: Rockwell, Elizabeth (MPO)
Subject: RE: Opinion Request

Ms. Rockwell:

Before I give you an answer, how was it decided that each member would receive the benefit? In other words, was it approved by the BCC, by CTAC itself, the Mayor/Manager, the Transit Director or none of the above?

Thanks,

Robert Meyers

From: Rockwell, Elizabeth (MPO)
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2010 9:48 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: Mesa, Jose L. (MPO); San Roman, Irma (MPO); Rockwell, Elizabeth (MPO)
Subject: Opinion Request

Mr. Meyers,

We are in need of an opinion regarding whether or not members of the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) should receive unlimited, complimentary Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) Easy Cards and Metrorail Parking Passes. Our concerns are as follows:

1. The CTAC advises the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Governing Board, through Resolutions, on all modes of transportation within the County. There may be a potential conflict of interest in receiving this benefit from MDT as their items come before the committee, for consideration, on a regular basis.
2. Each member is receiving \$1,320.00 annually by accepting these items, which may not be being reported on their yearly financial disclosure forms.
3. Not all advisory committees receive this same benefit.

We appreciate your attention to this request and look forward to your opinion on this

6/28/2010

matter.

Regards,
Elizabeth Rockwell
Public Involvement Manager
Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 920
Miami, FL 33128
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Meyers, Robert (COE)

From: Forbes, Clinton (MDT)
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2010 8:14 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: RE: Opinion Request

This benefit was established by MDT Director (Danny Alvarez) during my tenure as Secretariat of CTAC. If my memory serves me correctly, I believe it was a request by the Chairman of CTAC through resolution. It has been a prevailing benefit ever since.

Clinton B. Forbes
Senior Executive Assistant
Miami-Dade Transit (MDT)
305.218.5909 Mobile (Most accessible)
786.469.5409 Office
786.469.5580 Fax

701 NW 1st Court, 17th Floor, Miami, Florida 33136
Use the new **EASY Card** to pay your fare. Find out more at www.miamidade.gov/transit

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2010 2:22 PM
To: Forbes, Clinton (MDT)
Subject: FW: Opinion Request

Hi Mr. Forbes:

I received a request for opinion from Elizabeth Rockwell, but I had a question for her, which she could not answer, but she directed me to you. I want to know who decided that CTAC members would receive free Transit Easy Cards and Metrorail Parking Passes. If you do not know the answer, that's fine. I can probably issue an opinion without it – I am simply trying to find out whether this matter was discussed publicly or whether there is anything in writing.

Thanks,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

From: Rockwell, Elizabeth (MPO)
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2010 2:03 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: RE: Opinion Request

Mr. Meyers,

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