

Meyers, Robert (COE)

JNQ 10-46

From: Walters, Wansley (JAC)
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 3:55 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: Hudak, Alina T. (CEO)
Subject: RE: Vendor funded travel

Rob,


Thanks a lot for the information. I think we are just going to let this pass. I appreciate that you would get back with us so quickly.

Have a good weekend.

Wansley Walters, Director
Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department
 275 NW 2nd Street, 2nd Floor Miami, Florida 33128
 305-755-6202 Phone 305-755-6146 Fax
www.miamidade.gov/jac

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From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 3:50 PM
To: Walters, Wansley (JAC)
Cc: Hudak, Alina T. (CEO)
Subject: RE: Vendor funded travel

Hi Wansley:

The county ethics code bans county vendors from paying travel and travel-related expenses for County officials/employees. If the contract contains specific language authorizing the vendor to pay travel expenses for County officials/employees, then the ban would not apply. Absent that or a waiver from the Board of County Commissioners, the vendor is barred from covering the costs associated with the employee attending this conference. This section of the ethics code makes no distinction between those with purchasing authority and those without it.

There is a ray of hope here, however, based on your representation that the project has been completed and paid. If this is the case, then the company would no longer be defined as a County vendor and the company can pay for the travel unless the company is a current bidder or proposer with respect to another contract or project. As long as you are absolutely certain that the relationship between the County and the company has ended and the company is not actively seeking more business from the County, then the employee would be allowed to travel at the company's expense.

If you have any additional questions or wish to discuss, please contact me at your convenience.

Thanks,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director

3/5/2010

Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

From: Walters, Wansley (JAC)
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 6:25 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: Hudak, Alina T. (CEO)
Subject: FW: Vendor funded travel

Hi, Rob

Alina recommended that I contact you for some advice on a situation my department is facing due to the elimination of all travel funds.

As you can see below, I feel that it is important to have one of my staff represented at a presentation that is entirely about a project conducted with my department. I do not want to miss the opportunity to showcase what the County has done before a national audience simply because the County is going through a financial crisis. Further, I think it is important to note that the staff person requested has no purchasing authority and the contract relating to this project has been completed and paid. She is the most well versed to speak about this implementation, and I believe it is in the best interests of Miami-Dade County to have our perspective represented by our subject expert.

What is the best way we can work this out for her to attend?

Wansley Walters, Director

Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department


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From: Hudak, Alina T. (CEO)
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 5:04 PM
To: Walters, Wansley (JAC)
Cc: Lares, Christina (CEO)
Subject: RE: Vendor funded travel

Hi Wansley.....You may want to check with Rob Meyers...I believe that there is language in the Conflict Code relative to this. If travel is addressed in contract you may be ok....if not, I think it's a problem. Not sure, please see what you can find out from him. Thans.

Alina Tejada Hudak, Assistant County Manager

Miami Dade County

County Executive Office

(305) 375-2531

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From: Walters, Wansley (JAC)

3/5/2010

Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 5:00 PM
To: Hudak, Alina T. (CEO)
Subject: FW: Vendor funded travel

Alina,

As you are aware, my department has been engaged in a technology implementation that has reformed how we do business. Our new system represents real progress in the field of juvenile justice, and is allowing us to be more efficient with our resources. As part of our agreement with the software vendor, we were asked to participate in a "case study" of our experience with the new system. They brought in a professional production company to capture our story and are developing materials to share nationally.


The vendor will be presenting the case study at the National Conference on Juvenile Justice, a prestigious conference that we have traditionally attended. The vendor requested that Amy Maida, our Project Manager attend the conference to represent the County perspective on the project. Unfortunately, due to obvious budget constraints, our department is unable to fund attendance at the conference this year. Understanding this situation, the vendor has offered to fund her travel to the conference, if that is permissible.

I had my office contact our travel liaison at the Finance Department and we were advised that this type of travel can be allowed, with your approval of the situation. I am asking that you consider this request, as I do not want to miss the opportunity to highlight the positive work the County is doing in front of a national audience.

Wansley Walters, Director
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