

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2011 10:24 AM
To: Mallette, Victoria (DEM)
Cc: Centorino, Joseph (COE); Sibia, Rhonda (COE)
Subject: INQ 11-140 Accepting Travel Expenses from AIEF

Ms. Mallette,

The Ethics Commission staff has determined that Miami-Dade Emergency Management Director Curtis Sommerhoff may accept a gift of travel expenses from the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF) to attend the U.S. Emergency Services and Homeland Security Mission to Israel in December 2011.

Mr. Sommerhoff must disclose the gift on a quarterly gift disclosure form in the quarter following receipt of the gift. *See* Miami-Dade County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (e)(4).

We understand that the AIEF is a nonprofit organization that has no contracts with the County. This means that the AIEF is not a contractor, vendor, service provider, bidder or proposer with the County and receives no grant money from the County. Thus, accepting a gift from AIEF does not violate Sec. 2-11.1 (w) of the County Code.

Thank you for contacting the Ethics Commission and for providing the necessary background information.

If you have additional questions, feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

VICTORIA FRIGO, STAFF ATTORNEY

Phone: 305 350-0601

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From: Mallette, Victoria (DEM)
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2011 9:49 AM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Cc: Ethics (COE)
Subject: Ethics Opinion Request

Dear Mr. Centorino:

Welcome to Miami-Dade County. Miami-Dade Emergency Management Director Curtis Sommerhoff has been asked to join the American Israel Education Foundation's (AIEF) U.S. Emergency Services and Homeland Security Mission to Israel. This is a non-profit organization.

The trip, scheduled for December 4-9, 2011, is designed to expose participant's to first responders' experiences in Israel and the complex issues they face. All trip related expenses will be paid by AIEF. We want to ensure this trip conforms with the county's ethical requirements.

Attached is the letter of invitation.

Sincerely,

Victoria Mallette
External Affairs Coordinator
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