

I spoke to City of Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado on August 31, 2011 and advised him that he needed to report his all expenses-paid trip to Madrid in October. Since the organization underwriting the travel is not a city vendor, he may accept the gift from this party. The Mayor was rather unclear about who would be accompanying him on the trip, and I told him that we generally require the public official to report gifts from family members as well. Finally, I advised him that the gift form needed to be submitted by the end of the first quarter of 2012.

Robert Meyers

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2011 4:11 PM
To: Ross, Karl A. (COE)
Subject: RE: Mayor Regalado request for "guidance" about pending trip

Karl:

Mayor Regalado and I had conversation about this matter this afternoon.

Robert

From: Ross, Karl A. (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2011 11:10 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: Murawski, Michael P. (COE)
Subject: Mayor Regalado request for "guidance" about pending trip

Hi Robert,

I spoke to Mayor Regalado, who called to inquire as to whether he needed to report a proposed all-expenses-paid trip to Madrid in October for himself and a guest. He said an organization in Spain is sponsoring a consumer fair in Miami next March that is to be hosted by Miami Dade College.

The mayor said the city is also sponsoring the event, aimed at raising consumer awareness. He said the group had met previously with city officials during a workshop in Miami in which the U.S. Attorney's Office and others discussed things like mortgage fraud and other consumer protection issues. He said that, on that occasion, the city held a ceremony at city hall for the organization.

Mayor Regalado said the purpose of the visit in October would be to discuss the fair that is planned next March. He said the group has offered to pay all expenses for himself and a guest.

I told him that he would have to speak to you for legal guidance, but that my understanding was that, at a minimum, he would be required to report the trip for his guest with the state ethics commission. If the matter described above is in fact official city business – and it would appear to be – then it seems the mayor would be allowed to accept the trip for himself, so long as he did not solicit the trip.

Mayor Regalado's office number is (305) 250-5300. I told him you or Mike would return his call.

Karl Ross, investigator
Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust
Phone: (305) 350-0650