

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2011 2:47 PM
To: 'David M. Wolpin'
Cc: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: Gifts for City Employees (INQ 11-176)

Hello David,

You asked if a city may purchase merchandise, such as household electronic equipment, to be used as door prizes randomly awarded to employees who attend the city's annual city employee holiday party.

We understand that the public purpose of the event is to develop working relationships among employees and recognize the efforts of city employees. Some citizens may not be supportive of public funds being used in this way, and the Ethics Commission staff does not endorse this practice.

Nevertheless, the facts you presented do not violate the County Ethics Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (e).

If the city chooses to proceed with the purchases, the city should avoid any suggestions that a *quid pro quo* arrangement is inferred or implied. See RQO 05-119. In particular, city vendors should not be targeted when purchasing prizes. See RQO 09-21.

The prizes are gifts to the city employees because the employees have not provided adequate consideration for the prizes. Therefore, quarterly gift disclosure forms must be filed as required under Section 2-11.1 (e)(4) if the items received are valued at more than \$100.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Joe Centorino or me.

Sincerely,

VICTORIA FRIGO, STAFF ATTORNEY

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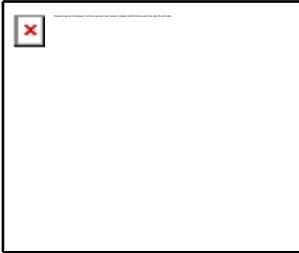
From: David M. Wolpin
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2011 5:10 PM
To: 'Centorino, Joseph (COE)'
Cc: David M. Wolpin
Subject: FW: Miami- Dade County Ethics Code

Hi Joe- as a staff opinion of the County Ethics Commission, please advise as to whether you agree that where a City has purchased merchandise (including household electronic equipment), the City may award those items to City employees, as door prizes randomly awarded to employees who attend the City's annual city employee holiday party. Each employee would receive a ticket as they enter the event, and the items would be awarded to those matching numbered tickets that are randomly drawn.

The annual event promotes the working relationship of the diverse array of City employees, and serves to show the appreciation of the City for the employee's hard work and dedication.

Further, if you concur that the items may be awarded in that fashion, would quarterly gift disclosure be required under Section 2-11.1 (e)(4), as to those items valued at more than \$100?

Thank you for your assistance .



David M. Wolpin, Esq.
Member

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{Reply Separator}

Member



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