

INQ 11-40

The Conflict of Interest ordinance permits MDPD to solicit and accept tickets from air carriers to be used in the conduct of official business. Section 2-11.1(e)2(e) provides that the gift section does not apply to "gifts solicited by County employees or departmental personnel on behalf of the County in conducting its official business." Since the tickets will be used in official business, MDPD may solicit tickets from air carriers in furtherance of its investigations. Further, Section 2-11.1 (w) (prohibition on acceptance of travel expenses) would not apply because the airlines are not county vendors, contractors, service providers, bidders or proposers. Therefore, the MDPD personnel may use the tickets. If you have any further questions, please contact us.

*Ardyth Walker Staff General Counsel - Ethics Committee*

**From:** Kaufman, Steven [mailto:SKaufman@mdpd.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2011 12:38 PM  
**To:** Walker, Ardyth (COE)  
**Cc:** Rodriguez, Ariel A. (MDPD)  
**Subject:** Clarification on Ethical Issue

Dear Mrs. Walker,

Thank you for your time and assistance with this issue regarding making a SOP change regarding Airport Detectives flying on Air Carriers with non-revenue tickets as a part of active police investigations. I just want to make sure that your office does not feel that it is a conflict or ethical violation for MDPD Airport Detectives to travel on these carriers with non-revenue tickets in order to properly combat luggage theft and other crimes that occur on board aircrafts.

**Steve Kaufman, Detective**

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