
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 3:10 PM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Det. Antonio Aquino, Homestead Police Department (Gifts)- INQ 14-207

INQ 14-207

From: Det. Antonio Aquino [mailto:Antonio.Aquino@homesteadpolice.com]
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2014 6:40 PM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Cc: Murawski, Michael P. (COE); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Command Staff; Det. Ricky Rivera; Paula Carballosa; Chief Alexander Rolle; Vivian Manach
Subject: RE: INQ - Det. Antonio Aquino, Homestead Police Department (Gifts)

Thank you for your response and time. I will forward the information to the Command Staff and the Human Resource Director.

Sincerely,

Detective Antonio Aquino
Internal Affairs Division
Homestead Police Department
4 South Krome Avenue
Homestead, FL 33030
Office:(305) 224-5305
Fax: (305) 242-0537
aaquino@homesteadpolice.com

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From: Centorino, Joseph (COE) [mailto:CENTORI@miamidade.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2014 2:04 PM
To: Det. Antonio Aquino
Cc: Murawski, Michael P. (COE); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: INQ - Det. Antonio Aquino, Homestead Police Department (Gifts)

Det. Aquino:

You have inquired concerning the ethical propriety under the County Ethics Code of the practice of soliciting gifts from local groups or businesses in connection with recognition provided to an "Officer of the Month" by the Homestead Police Department. Section 2-11.1(e)(3) of the County Ethics Code prohibits public employees of the county or municipalities from soliciting any gifts. There is an exception in the Code under Section 2-11.1(2)(c) for the acceptance of awards for professional or civic achievements. However, I do not read this provision as permitting the solicitation of such gifts. In the event that a private organization or business entity should decide to initiate an award program or other special recognition for an officer, I would regard that as coming within this exception. However, a program that is initiated from within the department that provides special benefits to particular officers, and which involves solicitation of gifts from local businesses or other groups, would not qualify for this exception.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Centorino
Executive Director and General Counsel
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

From: Det. Antonio Aquino [<mailto:Antonio.Aquino@homesteadpolice.com>]
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2014 12:50 PM
To: Murawski, Michael P. (COE)
Cc: Command Staff; Det. Ricky Rivera; Paula Carballosa
Subject: RE: Officer The Month-Gratuity

Hello Mr. Murawski,

I understand you have been very busy, however can you please give us an opinion on this issue.

Thank You.

Detective Antonio Aquino
Internal Affairs Division
Homestead Police Department
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From: Det. Antonio Aquino
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 8:16 PM
To: Paula Carballosa
Subject: FW: Officer The Month-Gratuity

Paula, please file/safe all issues relating to this request.

Detective Antonio Aquino
Internal Affairs Division
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From: Det. Antonio Aquino
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 8:12 PM
To: murawsk@miamidade.gov
Cc: Chief Alexander Rolle; Vivian Manach; Command Staff
Subject: Officer The Month-Gratuity

Mr. Murawski,

Thank you for taking my call this afternoon. I am following-up on our conversation. You requested that I place it in writing via an e-mail.

As I stated, Chief Rolle wanted to get direction on the Officer of the month and officer of the year program via the Miami-Dade Ethics Commission.

At our city council meetings, the department has awarded in the past to an officer, a plaque for their outstanding service and professional achievement and recognized an officer each month that goes beyond his duty in serving our citizens. That list is used to help determine the officer of the year for our department. The officer of the year name and accomplishments may be submitted to the PBA for their yearly recognition ceremony for the entire law enforcement community in Miami-Dade County.

In recognizing our officers, In the past local organization like the Rotary Club and Kiwanis have offered monetary gift /awards to the officer of the month and the officer of the year.

These may come in a form of gift cards from local businesses and or collection of other awards to be presented to the officer of the month and the officer of the year.

The past practice of awarding any monetary gifts from local businesses has been suspended until it can be determine if any ethical issues are present from such a practice.

You briefly reviewed with me Section 2-11-.1 Subsection E Subsection 2 "Exception to the gift rule-Awards for professional achievement".

Please advise if the department can solicit (via the Chief or his designee), our citizens and local businesses in reference supporting the officer of the month and officer the year program with monetary fund's and or gifts.

Respectfully Submitted;

Detective Antonio Aquino
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