
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2014 2:33 PM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: David Williams, Jr., Councilman, City of Miami Gardens (conflict of interest) INQ 14-245

INQ 14-245

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2014 4:31 PM
To: 'dwilliamsjr@miamigardens-fl.gov'
Cc: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); 'taylorr@miamigardens-fl.gov'
Subject: INQ - David Williams, Jr., Councilman, City of Miami Gardens

Mr. Williams:

You have inquired regarding whether it would be permissible under the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance for you to utilize funds from your office account allocation to purchase a bulletin board and flyers that would be located at the North Dade Community Development Federal Credit Union and used to promote positive exposure and recognition of the accomplishments of school children in the North Dade area. The question is submitted in light of your unpaid position as interim president of the Credit Union, a non-profit organization that provides loans and financial services to residents in North Miami-Dade County. You have indicated that the amount of the funding is approximately \$200.

The questions to be addressed are whether such a gift of public funds for these purposes is an appropriate use of public resources and whether you, as interim president of the organization, have a conflict of interest in connection with the proposed use of the funds.

Given that the purpose behind the expenditure is to promote public exposure of the achievements of local students for the benefit of the public and the students involved, I find this to be an appropriate expenditure of public resources. An improper use of resources for some improper private benefit or use could be considered an Exploitation of Official Position under Section 2-11.1(g) of the Count Ethics Code. Since there is nothing improper or impermissible about such publicity and the publicity is being provided in a publicly accessible place, there is no basis for considering this to be a violation of the said provision.

If you had some special private interest that would be served, financial or otherwise, by this expenditure, there might be a conflict of interest involved under either Section 2-11.1(d) or Section 2-11.1(n) of the Code. However, inasmuch as the benefit of this expenditure does not inure to the credit union but rather to the general public, and because you in your position as unpaid president of the non-profit credit union would not receive any inappropriate tangible or intangible benefit or enhancement from the expenditure, I do not find any such violation.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Centorino
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