

## Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)

---

**From:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 04, 2014 10:11 AM  
**To:** Casas-Perez, Belkys (ITD)  
**Cc:** Centorino, Joseph (COE)  
**Subject:** Ethic Opinion INQ 14-50

Ms. Casas-Perez:

County employees may not accept travel expenses from County vendors, as per Sec. 2-11.1 (w) of the County Code. Travel expenses include, but are not limited to, transportation, lodging, meals, registration fees and incidentals. Only the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) may waive this prohibition by majority vote.

Consequently, Ms. Karen Grassi of the County GIS Division may not accept a complimentary registration (approximate value of \$450.00 to \$550.00) from the Environmental System Research Institute (ESRI) if she attends ESRI's 2014 Southeast Regional Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. Ms. Grassi's department may apply to the BCC which may waive this prohibition by a majority vote.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Gilma Diaz-Greco

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Casas-Perez, Belkys (ITD)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2014 2:02 PM  
**To:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Subject:** RE: ESRI Conference Registration Waiver

The conference is taking place in Charlotte, NC and the cost varies (\$425-\$550) depending when you register. Again, this was a contest that was done where we were chosen as the winner for having the most votes & we are not the only organization who won such price.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2014 1:59 PM  
**To:** Casas-Perez, Belkys (ITD)  
**Subject:** FW: ESRI Conference Registration Waiver

A couple of more questions- Where is the conference taking place, and what is the value of the registration? In other words, what are regular attendees paying to attend the conference?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2014 1:55 PM  
**To:** Casas-Perez, Belkys (ITD)  
**Subject:** RE: ESRI Conference Registration Waiver

Belky's,

Is ESRI a County vendor? Is it a trade organization that the County belongs to?

Let me know-

Gilma (Mimi) Diaz-Greco  
Staff Attorney

Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
19 W. Flagler Street, Suite 820  
Miami, FL 33130  
Tel: (305) 579-2594  
Fax: (305) 579-0273  
[gdiazgr@miamidade.gov](mailto:gdiazgr@miamidade.gov)  
[www.facebook.com/MiamiDadeEthics](http://www.facebook.com/MiamiDadeEthics)

Miami-Dade County is a public entity subject to Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes concerning public records. E-mail messages are covered under such laws and thus subject to disclosure.

-----Original Message-----

From: Casas-Perez, Belkys (ITD)  
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 12:06 PM  
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
Subject: FW: ESRI Conference Registration Waiver  
Importance: High

Good afternoon Mimi,

I am writing to you to request your opinion on an ethics question. The County's GIS Division was recently awarded a complimentary registration to the ESRI Southeast Regional Conference and would like to know if it is appropriate to accept this registration fee waiver. ESRI's GIS technology is the Enterprise standard for the County location mapping systems. The GIS Division often submits many of the Miami-Dade County's projects and works for recognition, collaboration and transparency (i.e. NACO and PTI).

The Bike305 story map project was submitted last year in support of the Southeast Regional Users Conference. During which time, the conference attendees voted on all submissions and the Miami-Dade County's Bike305 mapping application received the most votes from conference participants and thereby earned the top award in the Map & App Gallery competition. As a result, the County was awarded a complimentary registration to their upcoming conference. Miami-Dade County is not the only one to receive a complimentary registration, numerous other companies both public & private have also been awarded a complimentary registration. Miami-Dade County would be responsible for all other travel related expenses (i.e. flight, lodging, meals etc.). Attached please find the award letter & certificate. Feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Thank you and have a great day.

Belkys