
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 2:04 PM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: FW: INQ - Flora Seff (MDFR) (Travel Expenses from County Vendor)

INQ 14-81

From: Ethics (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 11:28 AM
To: Seff, Flora (MDFR); Ethics (COE)
Cc: Fernandez, Louie (MDFR); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: INQ - Flora Seff (MDFR) (Travel Expenses from County Vendor)

Flora,

You have inquired whether firefighters and employees of MDFR may accept the invitation of W.L. Gore, a county vendor to attend a training event that will include payment of airline tickets, hotel, shuttle and food at an out-of-state location. This training would be valuable for the MDFR employees attending.

Section 2-11.1(w) is very clear in prohibiting acceptance of "transportation, lodging, meals, registration fees and incidentals from any County contractor, vendor, service provider, bidder or proposer." The only way this can be avoided is for the Board of County Commissioners to waive the requirements of this subsection by majority vote.

In the event that MDFR feels that the public benefit from this training event is significant enough to apply for a waiver, then the appropriate recourse is to apply to the BCC.

Sincerely,
Joe Centorino
Executive Director and General Counsel
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

From: Seff, Flora (MDFR)
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 10:42 AM
To: Ethics (COE)
Cc: Fernandez, Louie (MDFR)
Subject: Ethics Opinion

W.L. Gore & Associates is a company that sells various fire products to almost every fire department in the country. They are currently a vendor on at least one of our contracts. The invitation to attend this event was sent out to other fire departments for whom they are also vendors. This is a unique training opportunity for a few of our employees that is not offered by any other company and it would be beneficial to MDFR to attend.

There are serious safety concerns for firefighters in regards to their bunker gear. This company is going to be addressing those concerns as well as presenting solutions and new methods of care and maintenance for the gear.

The Department is requesting an ethics opinion on the attendance of our employees at this event. Due to time constraints, we would appreciate a response as soon as possible.

EMAIL to MDFR from W.L. Gore & Associates

From: Mary C McGoldrick [<mailto:mmcgoldr@wlgore.com>]

Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 1:05 PM
To: Lombardi, Vince (MDFR); taborg@miamidadegov.com
Subject: W.L. Gore & Associates - April 29-May 1 Fire End User Seminar Invitation

Dear Chief Lombardi and Mr. Tabor:

Per our conversation today, please find below the invitation that we discussed. You will see that W.L. Gore will provide airline tickets, hotel, shuttle and food for this event. Please read below for more details. There is a registration form that should be sent in as soon as you are able to commit to this event as we generally host about 24 personnel.

W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc. is pleased to invite you to one of our ongoing and upcoming seminars entitled "Safety, Performance, and Value in Protective Fire Fighting Fabrics". The seminar is designed to give you a better understanding of Gore's product offerings for the Fire Service. The seminar will be held in Elkton, Maryland, and is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, through Thursday, May 1, 2014. If you plan to attend, please complete the attached registration below and submit before April 1, 2014. Please do not submit registration if you are not confident that you can attend, as upon receipt of your completed registration, non-refundable tickets and overnight hotel arrangements will be ordered for your participation.

Please let me know if you have any questions.
Thank you, and we are looking forward to your visit!
MC

Mary Catherine McGoldrick (Brennan)
W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.
Email- mbrennan@wlgore.com
www.crosstech.com
Phone- 410-506-5329
Cell- 443-386-0828
<ATT00001.gif>
Visit www.GoreProtectiveFabrics.com/Heat-Stress-Management
to learn more about managing heat stress across a broader range of conditions.
Get Hydrated....Stay Physically Fit....Wear CROSSTECH® moisture barriers

<Fire End-User Invitation.doc>
<Gore Travel Registration Form.doc>

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Flora E. Seff, Esq.
Senior Legal Liason
Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department

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