

**ETHICS OPINION**  
***Office of the City Attorney***

**TO:** Mayor Walter G. Campbell, Jr.  
Members of the Coral Springs City Commission

**FROM:** John J. Hearn, City Attorney

**RE:** Attending the Broward County School Board Dinner

**DATE:** September 6, 2016

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On your behalf, Andrea Mayper, the City Commission Office Assistant, has asked if you may attend the dinner that the Broward County School Board is sponsoring at the Cook and Cork Restaurant. The event is valued at \$20.00. Your wife will also be attending the event, and you will personally pay for her dinner. If these facts are incorrect or inaccurate in any way, please let us know since it may affect the opinion that we give.

The Broward County Code of Ethics, as amended on December 8, 2015, provides that "no Elected Official, or relative, registered domestic partner or governmental office staff of any Elected Official, shall accept any gift, directly or indirectly, with a value in excess of \$5.00" from any lobbyist registered with the City, from any principal/employer of any such lobbyist, or from vendors or contractors of the City. Section 1-19(c)(1)a., County Code of Ordinances. Commissioners may accept gifts in an "official capacity" from "other sources" up to \$50.00 per occurrence. Section 1-19(c)(1)b., County Code of Ordinances. The \$50.00 limitation does not apply to gifts given to Commissioners in their personal (non-official) capacity. Such gifts are still subject to the reporting requirements of Florida Statutes section 112.3148. Section 1-19(c)(1)c., County Code of Ordinances.

The Broward County School Board is a vendor of the City. However, the Code of Ethics, as amended, provides that Broward County or any other governmental entity shall not be considered a vendor of any governmental entity within Broward County. Therefore, for purposes of the Code of Ethics, we do not consider the Broward County School Board a vendor and you may accept a gift up to a \$50.00 value.

If you need additional guidance regarding this matter, please feel free to contact my office.