

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 Abi's Place Fundraising Event

DATE: October 24, 2016

On behalf of the Mayor and the City Commission, Andrea Mayper, the City Commission Office Assistant, has asked if you may attend the Abi's Place Fundraising Event. The flyer for the event states that the lunch served at the event is valued at \$7.00. Tickets for the event request a donation of \$10 for one ticket, and \$15 for two tickets. The Mayor and Commissioners are each being offered one or two tickets to the event. 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.

Abi's Place is not a lobbyist, vendor or contractor of the City. Therefore, you may accept one or two tickets to the event, as 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.