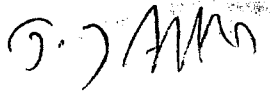


# Memo

To: Mayor and City Commissioners, City of Dania Beach

From: Tom Ansbro, City Attorney 

Date: March 9, 2017

Re: Ability of Elected Officials to Attend Upcoming Event  
("CLIMB UP WITH WIZO")  
Ethics Opinion: 17-01 (Gift Reporting and Acceptance)

cc: Robert Baldwin, City Manager

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The Mayor and "a Commissioner" and their respective families have been invited by an organization known as the Women's International Zionist Organization ("WIZO") to attend an event called "Climb Up with WIZO" on March 19, 2017 at Tigertail Lake Recreation Center located at the Broward College facility near the City's Bass Pro store (see attached message from Committee Chairperson Carol Fischzang). According to the event flyer, an individual ticket for this event is \$18.00 and the cost for a family of four is \$54.00. I have prepared this opinion in case any of you would like to accept the invitation and attend. The County ethics ordinance may permit you to attend this event and accept the ticket as a "gift". Elected officials may accept gifts in this instance when given to you in your official capacity, up to a maximum of \$50.00 per occurrence.

In this case, the Mayor and "a Commissioner" have been invited to this event and the invitation is extended to you in your official capacity. Anyone from your family can also attend but you are limited to accepting a "gift" from this organization of no more than a total of \$50.00. According to the flyer, the purchase price of an individual ticket is \$18.00. If you attend alone, you will have received a gift valued at \$18.00 and that is permitted. However, the invitation is also extended to family members. Consequently, if three family members accompany any one of you to the event, the total value of the gift is \$54.00. This is significant because the County Ethics Ordinance "caps" gifts to elected officials at \$50.00, which means you ultimately would be required to reimburse WIZO the overage of \$4.00 (the County Ethics Ordinance is strict in its application). If, on the other hand, you attend by yourself or attend with one or two family members, you will fall below the \$50.00 and there would be no reimbursement requirement.

To summarize: the Broward County Ethics Ordinance gift rules allow you to attend the event and accept the ticket as a gift regardless on the number of family members who attend with you. However, if any of you bring three or more family members, you would be obligated to reimburse the WIZO organization for the amount in excess of \$50.00.

**PLEASE NOTE**

The following is new “standard” language which I will be consistently using for these types of opinions, known as “safe harbor” opinions:

This Opinion is provided pursuant to Subsection 8 of the County Ethics Code (“Code”), which allows an Elected Official to request an advisory opinion about how the Code applies to his or her own situation. Requests for opinions can only be considered if they are in writing and signed by the Elected Official or by his or her office staff (however in this case, the invitation was sent to you via Christine Lottier of the City Manager’s office). Requests for opinions need to state all material facts necessary for me as the advising attorney to understand the circumstances and render a complete and correct opinion. In addition, until amended or revoked, an advisory opinion rendered pursuant to this section is binding on the conduct of the Elected Official covered by the opinion unless material facts were omitted or misstated in the request for advisory opinion. If the Elected Official acts in accordance with a binding advisory opinion, the Elected Official’s conduct may not be found to be in violation of the Broward County Elected Official Code of Ethics. However, any opinion rendered under this section shall not be binding as to whether the Elected Official’s action complies with state or federal ethics requirements.

Assuming that all pertinent facts are disclosed, you may use this opinion as a “safe harbor” opinion under the Broward County Ethics Ordinance should any questions arise concerning the Opinion provided above.

If you need any additional guidance regarding this matter, please contact me.

Attachments:

- 1) February 29, 2017 E-Mail Invitation sent to Chris Lottier by WIZO Chairperson
- 2) WIZO flyer re: the March 19, 2017 Event
- 3) March 2, 2017 E-Mail sent to Mark Felicetty and Chris Lottier by Natalie Justice, Manager of Tigertail Lake Recreational Center

February 29, 2017

City of Dania Beach Florida

Ms. Cristine Lottier:

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Dear Cristine:

WIZO, the Women's International Zionist Organization, is a worldwide non-profit organization that aims to better the lives of women, children, and the elderly living in Israel. Next to the government, WIZO is the second largest provider of social welfare services in Israel. The organization was founded in 1920 in direct response to the needs of women and children in Israel. Today, WIZO continues to identify the needs of Israeli society and creates solutions to meet them.

With members in over 55 countries, WIZO operates more than 800 social welfare projects throughout Israel. The proceeds from our fundraisers will go to benefit these projects, which include child care centers, schools, shelters for battered women, homes for girls in distress, and programs that provide services for the elderly.

We work hard organizing events to raise money for the benefit of those in need.

This year, we are promoting the big annual event "Climb Up with WIZO" that will take place on Sunday, March 19 at TigertailLake Recreational Center in Dania Beach, Florida with approximately 250 attendants. Please see invite attached.

This event will deeply benefit the local community by offering a pleasant time and a possibility to enhance the lives of children and women in our centers in ISRAEL.

We would love to invite the Mayor and perhaps a Commissioner with their families to participate with us. It will be a fun filled day where they will not only have fun and help the local community but support our centers in Israel.

Please help us make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate. If you have any questions, please call me at (954) 303-4901 or email me at wizosimcha@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Carol Fischzang

Committee Chairperson



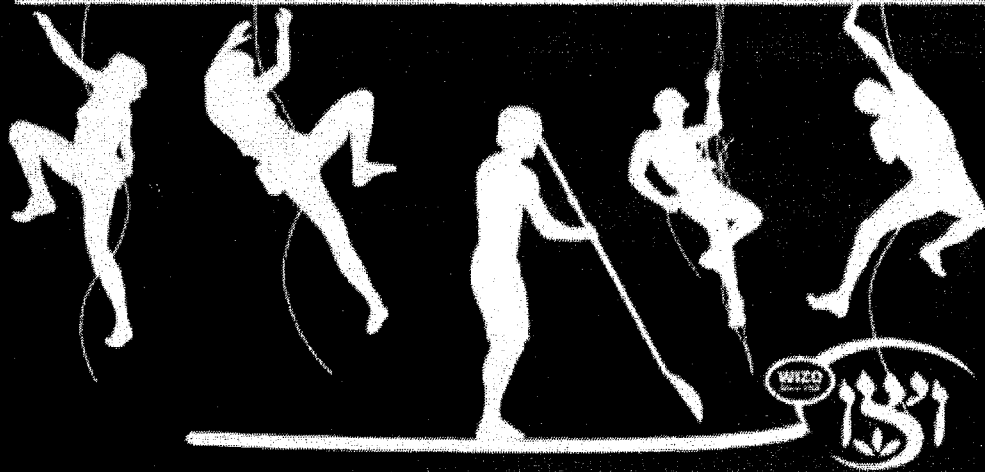
CLIMBING

BOATING

KAYAKING

PADDLE BOARDING

# Climb Up with WIZO



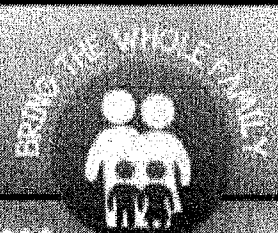
## SUNDAY, MARCH 19

### 9:30 am - 1 pm @ Tigertail Lake

580 Gulf Stream Way, Dania Beach

### COME JOIN US FOR A FUN DAY FULL OF ACTION

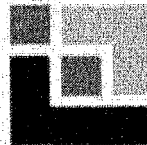
Family of 4: \$54 (\$72 at the door) - Single: \$18 (\$25 at the door)



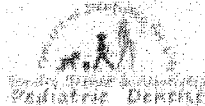
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION, PLEASE CALL (305) 861-8860 OR VISIT [WWW.WIZO.ORG](http://WWW.WIZO.ORG)



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL CHEFS



**Alberto Fischzang**  
D.M.D., P.A.  
General & Cosmetic Dentistry



## Ansbro, Tom

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**From:** Natalie Justice <njustice@broward.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 02, 2017 9:37 AM  
**To:** Felicetty, Mark  
**Cc:** Lottier, Christine  
**Subject:** RE: CLIMB UP WITH WIZO INVITE

It is well - thank you! How are things on your side? ☺

Yes – they are expecting 150 people and will be using kayaks, sups, canoes, and climbing.

While I have you – do you know of any ordinances or rule about have motorized boats (other than our johnboats used for lifeguarding)? Our marketing department is exploring different possibilities for activities/events. I thought the rule was no motorized boats with the above exception but could not find anything in our lease. Please let me know.

Thanks!

Natalie

Natalie Justice  
Manager | Tigertail Lake Recreational Center  
580 Gulf Stream Way  
Dania Beach, Florida 33004  
☎: (954) 201-4502 | 📠: 954-201-4506 |  
[www.broward.edu/tigertail](http://www.broward.edu/tigertail)

*To be playful and serious at the same time is possible ~ John Dewey*

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**From:** Felicetty, Mark [<mailto:mfelicetty@daniabeachfl.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 02, 2017 9:28 AM  
**To:** Natalie Justice <njustice@broward.edu>  
**Cc:** Lottier, Christine <clottier@daniabeachfl.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: CLIMB UP WITH WIZO INVITE  
**Importance:** High

Hi Natalie,

Hope all is well on your end.

I just want to confirm this event is event is taking place at the Broward College Facility on your side of Tigertail Lake?

Thanks

Mark T. Felicetty,  
Director of Parks & Recreation  
City of Dania Beach, FL  
954-924-6800x3730 office  
954-924-6813 fax  
[mfelicetty@daniabeachfl.gov](mailto:mfelicetty@daniabeachfl.gov)



*Established in History, Preparing for Tomorrow*