

ETHICS OPINION
Office of the City Attorney

TO: Commissioner Joy Carter
Members of the Coral Springs City Commission

FROM: John J. Hearn, City Attorney

RE: Attending the Professional Facilities Management (PFM) Event

DATE: April 14, 2017

You have asked if you may attend an event hosted by PFM and bring a guest. The show at the event is free to all attendees, and the value of the appetizers and drinks is \$25.00 per person. 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.

PFM is a vendor of the City. Therefore, you may accept a gift up to a \$5.00 value, and you must reimburse PFM \$20.00 if you attend alone or \$45.00 if you bring a guest. Reimbursement must occur within 90 days of the event.

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

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