

## Jennifer L. Johnson

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**From:** Andrew S. Maurodis <AMaurodis@wsh-law.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 4, 2018 11:44 AM  
**To:** Ken Cutler  
**Cc:** Jennifer L. Johnson  
**Subject:** RE: Ethics opinion--APPLICATION OF BROWARD COUNTY ETHICS CODE

Commissioner;

Based upon my reading of your request, and upon our conversation, it is clear that the invitation is to the wives and spouses of MSD teachers.

Under Section C (1) of the Broward County Ethics Code restricts the acceptance of gifts under certain circumstances. The restriction applies to gifts received by your spouse and children as well. You have indicated in our conversation that the gift is offered by a sponsoring airline of the Air and Sea Show.

There are three possible categories of gifts. 1. Gifts from vendors, lobbyists, or contractors of the City may not exceed \$5.00 in value; 2. Gifts in your official capacity may not exceed \$50.00 in value; and 3. Other gifts are limited only as restricted by State law.

The donor of the gift is not a contractor or vendor of the City or a lobbyist so the \$5.00 restriction is not applicable. The donor is giving the gift to your wife and her spouse solely based upon the fact that she is a teacher at MSD. The other recipients share the same position and are receiving the same gift. The recipient class is MSD teachers. It is not a gift in any way related to your official capacity. Therefore the \$50.00 limit is not applicable.

By process of elimination therefore, **there is no monetary limit on the gift and your wife and daughter may lawfully accept it under the Broward County Ethics Code.**

Note that the State of Florida reporting requirement does apply.

I am also copying the City Clerk so this opinion can be properly posted.

Andrew Maurodis  
City Attorney

**From:** Ken Cutler [mailto:kcutler@cityofparkland.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 4, 2018 10:45 AM  
**To:** andy@maurodislaw.com  
**Subject:** Ethics opinion

Andy

The school teachers and faculty of Stoneman Douglas have been offered an opportunity to take a plane ride, along with their spouse or family member, to view the Ft Lauderdale Air and Sea show from the sky. The value of the offer, given exclusively to MSD, is \$150 per ticket. It is a global offer to these MSD employees. It is not offered in my official capacity but merely is offered because of my relationship to a teacher in this group. I do not believe the airline even is aware of the relationship. None the less, I am not going to use the ticket my daughter is going. I do not believe there are any "airlines" that are lobbyists, vendors or contractors of the city. I need an opinion on whether the acceptance of this plane ticket runs afoul of BROWARD's ethics laws or that of 112. The trip is tomorrow. Sorry for the short notice.

Ken Cutler  
Commissioner District 3  
[KCutler@cityofParkland.org](mailto:KCutler@cityofParkland.org)  
#ParklandProud

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Andrew Maurodis



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