Andrew J. Meyers County Attorney



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MEMORANDUM

TO:

Board of County Commissioners

FROM:

Andrew J. Meyers, County Attorney

DATE:

May 29, 2019

RE:

Amendment to Section 1-19(c)(5)(a) of the Code of Ethics for Elected

Officials

On April 16, 2019, the Board directed this Office to draft an amendment to clarify the scope of the "Charitable Contribution Fundraising" provision of the County's Code of Ethics. We have produced four alternative versions of the proposed amendment, each sponsored by a different Commission office (the primary version is identified as being sponsored by the Board, but it was coordinated with the Mayor's Office). We thereafter met with leading municipal counsel (the Ordinance applies equally to municipal elected officials) and with the General Counsel for the Office of the Inspector General. We received helpful input during this meeting.

Based on that input, we have made various changes to each of the alternatives. We are in the process of discussing those changes with the sponsor of each proposal, but are unlikely to be able to complete that until early next week. After completing those discussions, we would like to give counsel for the Inspector General and the municipalities an opportunity to review the revised versions.

The public hearing on this item is currently set for June 11. Because the agenda for that meeting prints tomorrow, we plan to ask the Board to open the public hearing on June 11 but continue it until the first meeting in August. That will provide sufficient time to finalize the proposed amendments in collaboration with municipal counsel and the Office of Inspector General.

We will continue working on this item and will promptly distribute amended proposals as they are finalized, in case the Board wishes to complete the public hearing on June 11. Whether or not we complete that hearing and amend the Code on June 11, we continue to encourage each of you to seek our counsel in connection with any charitable solicitation.

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Please feel free to contact Assistant County Attorney Rocio Blanco Garcia (ext. 8640) or me should you wish to discuss this matter.

AJM/RBG/gf

c: Bertha Henry, County Administrator Bob Melton, County Auditor