

September 14, 2000  
Re: IO-00-146

You inquired whether your department or division may solicit gift certificates from local restaurants to give as awards to certain employees for recognition of good work or attendance. Enclosed is a copy of advisory opinion 99-199, which should be of assistance to you. The solicitation of gifts, generally prohibited by §3-106(a) of the Public Ethics Law, Article 9 of the Anne Arundel County Code, is only permitted by an agency where the beneficiaries will be members of the public. A county employee may not be the recipient of solicited gifts. Awards for county employees may be given by the county of course, but they may not be solicited from private donors.

Thank you for your inquiry. If you have other questions, please call any time.

Sincerely,

Betsy K. Dawson  
Executive Director

enclosure