

March 13, 2001  
Re: IO-01-32

You inquired whether the police department may permit a private film company to feature the department in a television program about a specific investigation that the county police recently handled. You stated that there would be no compensation to the department or to any officers involved in the production. You also stated that you had contacted the Office of Law and had received advice with regard to the types of information that you may disclose to the film company about the investigation.

If the purpose of the department's participation in this venture is to highlight and promote the work of the county police department, there are no ethics issues presented by your inquiry. As long as the department is not endorsing or promoting the film company, there is no reason to believe that the department would be using its prestige for the economic gain of a private business.

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

Sincerely,

Betsy K. Dawson  
Executive Director