

August 13, 2002
Re: IO-02-107

You inquired whether you may attend a social evening with a friend (not a county employee), who has been invited to dinner at the home of the manager of a vendor entity doing business with your agency. In addition to being a vendor, the entity is also subject to the authority of the agency, in that it is inspected by the agency. You are an office support employee with the agency.

Section 3-106(c)(1) of the Public Ethics Law permits employees to accept occasional meals and beverage of modest value from controlled donors. A dinner invitation at the home of a controlled donor would fall into this category. You may accept this invitation as long as your agency is not currently involved in any kind of contractual or regulatory dispute with the entity, and as long as the entity is not currently involved in contract negotiations with your agency.

Thank you for your inquiry. Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Betsy K. Dawson
Executive Director

BKD:vlj