

May 29, 2003

Re: IO-03-53

You inquired whether --'s Bus Service, Inc., a company with which you are employed, may continue its long-standing practice of providing occasional free bus service to the county government for various public functions. You are the controller of this company, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Coach USA.

Based upon the facts that you have provided, the ethics commission advises that there are no ethics issues raised by your inquiry. The county may accept gifts as long as the gifts are used to carry out legitimate county purposes or programs. As long as the gift does not benefit individual employees or groups of employees, there is no reason why --'s Bus Service, Inc. may not continue to provide this service to the county government.

Sincerely,

Betsy K. Dawson

Executive Director