

February 28, 2005
Re: IO-05-12

You inquired whether police and fire department employees may accept free tickets to attend a soccer game offered by the Baltimore Blast. The offer includes a four dollar discount for family members and friends of the employees, off the usual ticket price of \$20.00. The answer is that the employees may accept this gift.

The Baltimore Blast is not a controlled donor with respect to these employees, so the gift prohibitions do not apply to this situation. Section 5-107, prohibiting the use of the prestige of office for personal gain, is applicable since the gift is being offered solely for the reason of these employees' county positions. Since the value of the gift is nominal (under \$25), it may be accepted. See, IO-01-165.

Thank you for your inquiry. If you have additional questions, please call me.

Sincerely,

Betsy K. Dawson
Executive Director