

April 13, 2007

Sent By Electronic & Interoffice Mail

Re: AO-07-29

You inquired whether an employee in the water division of the bureau of utilities in the department of public works, may accept travel expenses to attend a focus group meeting hosted by Sensus Metering Systems, a contractor with the county. The ethics commission advises that acceptance of travel expenses is prohibited by 7-5-106(b) of the ethics law. Gifts may not be accepted from a person or entity that does business with the county. Travel expenses are an exception but only if they are offered to an employee to attend a conference in which the employee will be participating as a featured speaker.

The county may either pay for this employee to attend the meeting, or invite the entity to come to the county to demonstrate its new metering technology.

Thank you for your inquiry. Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Betsy K. Dawson
Executive Director