



*Anne Arundel County
Ethics Commission*

July 30, 2009

By Electronic Mail Only

Re: AO-09-50

You asked whether you could accept the offer to have a radio personality visit your office for conversation with you and your coworkers that would include small prizes and giveaways. The visit would be typical of a regular segment of the daily programming at WHUR, a radio station in Washington, D.C. The DJ, Tony Richards, conducts these visits as part of "Taking It to the Streets," a daily segment of the [Steve Harvey](#) show. As described on the website, "If there is place in the DC metro that Tony hasn't been then it hasn't been built yet! Tony hits the streets early and often talking to the people who wake up the city and giving away great stuff. He has a great time with the listeners who find him around town."

The ethics commission advises that the ethics law does not prohibit you from accepting this offer, based upon your assurance that WHUR does no business with your agency. This opportunity was offered to you as a result of a visit you made to the station with friends outside of work. It was not offered to you because of your county position. And while the ethics law generally requires that county office space be used for county business, it does not prohibit small social events, such as office parties or other types of friendly gatherings. Since the gift and prestige of office prohibitions do not apply in this situation, your inquiry raises no ethics issues.

The ethics commission cannot specifically permit this event- that is up to your supervisor. At most, the commission advises you that the event is not prohibited by the ethics law.

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

The Anne Arundel County Ethics Commission

/s/

By: _____
Betsy K. Dawson, Executive Director