



*Anne Arundel County
Ethics Commission*

November 16, 2011

By Electronic Mail Only

Re: AO-11-105

You asked how your office should deal with four gift cards worth \$5 each that were received by an employee who purchased some office equipment with that employee's county credit card. The gift cards were given as a promotion by the store. Specifically you asked whether your office could donate them to another county agency for a holiday program that provides such things to disadvantaged citizens.

Because the gift cards were given as a result of the use of a county credit card, the gift belongs to the county. For that reason, it may only be used to support county programs. Since the amount of the gift is minimal, and since your office does not plan to use the cards to benefit its own employees, there is nothing in the ethics law that would prohibit you from taking the proposed action. In the case of a gift of significant value, its use should be determined by the administration, but that is not the case here.

Thank you for your inquiry and for getting into the spirit of the holiday season.

The Anne Arundel County Ethics Commission

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Betsy K. Dawson".

By: Betsy K. Dawson, Executive Director