

LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY
METRO GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION
Opinion: 08-C-003

Authority Granted By Ordinance

The Ethics Ordinance vests in this body the sole authority to determine whether a Metro Officer has violated its provisions. The Ordinance defines Metro Officers to include:

individuals who are agency directors or department director for the Louisville/Jefferson County Metro government, or any such other similar managerial type position, as shall be determined by each elected or appointed Metro Officer....

See, Ethics Ordinance, Section 21.01 (2003).

Background Information

Chris Lewis, Deputy Director, Minority Caucus, asks in a request for advisory opinion dated March 20, 2008, whether it is “a violation for council members to appropriate Neighborhood Development Funds for Ramble for Roses. In return for this sponsorship, council members will have their names printed on 2,500 t-shirts and their name[sic] printed in 20,00 brochures.”

As the Deputy Director of the Minority Caucus, Chris Lewis is subject to the Ethics Ordinance.

Applicable Rules

None

Discussion

In order for the Ethics Commission to entertain any request for an advisory opinion, that request must concern conduct that is cognizable under the Ethics Ordinance. The instant Request for Advisory Opinion presents a question of fiscal responsibility and not one of Ethics. The Commission has no authority to advise Council members on the wisdom of appropriating funds for any targeted purpose.

Thus the Request for Advisory Opinion is dismissed.

Kathryn Quesenberry, Chairperson
Metro Louisville/Jefferson County Ethics Commission.