

LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY
METRO GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION
Opinion: 08-C-007

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

Tracy Gaines, Metro Government Business Manager, asks in a request for advisory opinion dated April 8, 2008, whether it is a violation of the Ethics Ordinance for the elected officials to be reimbursed from "their Operating Budget" for a table to the "They're Off Luncheon," an event that is a part of the Derby festivities.

As the Metro Government Business Manager, Tracy Gaines 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 the Metro Government on issues relating to the expenditure or allocation of funds.

Thus the Request for Advisory Opinion is dismissed.

Kathryn Quesenberry, Chairperson
Metro Louisville/Jefferson County Ethics Commission.
April 18, 2008