

HOTLINE CASE

2008-21

Dec. 2008-12-06

This was an anonymous call to the Hotline. The caller alleged that an employee in the Special Events division of the city went to PRI, a media vendor for the city doing business with Special Events, and picked up free tickets to a football game. The caller believed this was a violation of the local gift law that prohibits employees from accepting gifts in excess of \$100 from someone doing business with their department.

The IG spoke with Special Events Manager, Theresa Price, who spoke to the employee named in the complaint. The person picked up four "Family Fun" tickets from PRI, at a cost of \$15 each and did use them.

This does not violate the local gift law, as the total ticket value was \$60, but does illustrate how the receipt of gifts from a vendor, although legal, can "give the appearance of impropriety". This is part of the ethics training.