

From: Burchstead, Michael <[mburchstead@ethics.sc.gov](mailto:mburchstead@ethics.sc.gov)>  
To: Butch Bowers <[Butch@ButchBowers.com](mailto:Butch@ButchBowers.com)>  
Hayden, Herb <[Herb@ethics.sc.gov](mailto:Herb@ethics.sc.gov)>  
Pisarik, Holly <[HollyPisarik@gov.sc.gov](mailto:HollyPisarik@gov.sc.gov)>  
CC: Patel, Swati <[SwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov](mailto:SwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov)>  
Date: 9/4/2015 1:34:03 PM  
Subject: RE: Letter

---

Butch,

The Ethics Commission opinions cited by Ms. Pisarik in the letter to Director Hayden (AO92-120 and AO92-112) are still in effect, and they appear to be factually similar to the issue regarding the football suite. However, the Commission has never directly answered whether it is permissible under the Ethics Act for a University which is a lobbyist's principal to provide a football suite to the Office of the Governor. Since the Commission has never weighed in on this issue, we believe it would be inappropriate to provide an opinion at the staff level.

I will say that my understanding is that the email communications between Herb and the Post and Courier reporter related solely to the permissibility of providing football suites directly to individual *public officials*. This is factually distinct from the present circumstance, where the suite is being provided to a government entity.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Michael R. Burchstead  
General Counsel  
SC State Ethics Commission  
5000 Thurmond Mall, Suite 250  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 253-4192  
<http://ethics.sc.gov/>

---

From: Butch Bowers [<mailto:Butch@ButchBowers.com>]  
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2015 11:56 AM  
To: Hayden, Herb; Pisarik, Holly  
Cc: Patel, Swati; Burchstead, Michael  
Subject: Re: Letter

Michael - as we discussed, please see below and attached. Let me know if you have any questions or need anything else. Thanks,

Butch

---

From: Hayden, Herb <[Herb@ethics.sc.gov](mailto:Herb@ethics.sc.gov)>  
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2015 5:07:49 PM  
To: Pisarik, Holly  
Cc: Butch Bowers; Patel, Swati; Burchstead, Michael  
Subject: RE: Letter

Thanks Holly,

I had a call from Butch, but I haven't seen the news article. According to Butch, it sounds as though my comments may have been taken out of context. Attached is the email thread with the Post and Courier reporter. As you can

see, his questions and my responses, as well as the opinion I sent him, address gifts to individual public officials, not a governmental entity. If you have a copy of the article, I would like to see how it was reported. Let me know if you have any questions.

Herb

---

From: Pisarik, Holly  
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2015 3:50 PM  
To: Hayden, Herb  
Cc: Butch Bowers; Patel, Swati  
Subject: Letter

Herb,

Please find attached a letter regarding the University of South Carolina's long-standing tradition of providing football tickets to the Governor's Office. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call me.

Thanks,

Holly G. Pisarik  
Chief Legal Counsel  
Office of Governor Nikki R. Haley  
O: 803-734-8465 C: 803-322-6255