



ZACH KLEIN

CITY ATTORNEY

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE • COLUMBUS OHIO

June 20, 2023

Lauren Anderson
American Israel Education Foundation
251 14 Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Ms. Anderson:

This is in response to the recent correspondence to Columbus City Council Member Lourdes Barroso de Padilla inviting her to participate in the upcoming *Educational Seminar in Israel for Latino Leaders* sponsored by the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF). That correspondence contains a request that confirmation be provided that Council Member Barroso de Padilla's participation in this seminar is permissible under the ethics restrictions applicable to Columbus city officials.

Under Ohio's ethics laws, an official cannot solicit, accept, or use the authority of her public position to secure anything of value, including travel, meals, or lodging expenses, that could have a "substantial" and "improper" influence upon her in the performance of her duties. Applying this general prohibition to the facts and circumstances of the subject seminar, while the value of the trip expenses being provided by AIEF would be considered substantial, because AIEF is not regulated by, interested in matters before, or doing or seeking to do business with the City of Columbus, AIEF would not be considered an improper source for those expenses. Accordingly, it would be permissible under the applicable ethics restrictions for Council Member Barroso de Padilla to participate in this AIEF-sponsored seminar.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

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