

ROSEVILLE *Ethics Tip*

August 2011

Hey, Friend, Can You Give Me a Hand?

The City of Atlanta, Georgia, recently had some unwanted attention when its City Clerk was cited for ethics violations. One of the violations was the Clerk having city workers perform work on city time that benefitted the City Clerk personally, including helping her move furniture at her personal residence. In her response to the charges, the Clerk said that she didn't think it was improper to have these employees help her since she considered them to be her friends. However, the Atlanta code did not allow for that; neither would the Roseville Code of Ethics, which prohibits the use of public office for private gain.

Remember....

Certainly, people become friends with their co-workers and it is not inappropriate to get together outside of work. It becomes an ethics problem, however, when people are doing personal work on city time or when the people "helping" another feel pressured into doing so because the other person has management authority over them at work. Something we should keep in mind in case we ever want to ask a "friend" for help.

Sent on behalf of the Roseville Ethics Commission