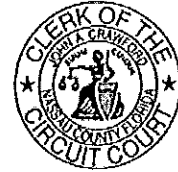




JOHN A. CRAWFORD
Clerk of the Circuit Court / Comptroller
Ex-Officio Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners
Nassau County



April 29, 2010

Honorable Michael H. Boyle, Chairman
Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
96160 Nassau Place
Yulee, FL 32097

Dear Chairman Boyle and Commissioners:

It has come to my attention that after I left the Board meeting this past Monday night, you voted unanimously to expend public funds for the purpose of buying candy and novelties to be distributed by Commissioners at upcoming parades. I have reviewed the minutes of the meeting and found that my deputy clerk did not firmly advise you that I would find this an unacceptable expenditure of public funds. Even in the case where a Board of County Commissioners opines and votes that an expenditure meets the public purpose test, the ex-officio Clerk must ultimately determine the legality of the expenditure.

As you must be aware, the taxpayers who pay our salaries are living in very difficult economic times. In fact, in response to declining revenues, you advised your departments to be prepared to cut budgets. I think that even minimum discretion should lead political figures away from making any expenditures with public money for purchases, the appearance of which only serves to improve the image of the politician and does not directly benefit the public in the same way as spending to improve transportation, public facilities, public safety and so forth.

Therefore, I must advise you if you want to make this purchase to do so with personal funds as I will be unable to sign a public check for the purpose of buying the candy and novelties approved at your Board meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Crawford".

John A. Crawford

JAC/ks