

From: [William Clague](#)
To: [Renee Isrel](#); [Sarah Brown](#)
Cc: [Mitchell Palmer](#); [Alex Nicodemi](#); [Jacob Saur](#); [Jan Brewer](#); [Lisa Crabtree](#); [Kathy Cremaschi](#); [Juliet Shepard](#)
Subject: Bequest from IRA Account for Animal Services; CAO Matter No. 2020-0192
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 9:55:32 AM

Renee / Sarah:

Pursuant to the above Request for Legal Services you have asked for the assistance of this Office in arranging for the transfer to the County of funds in an IRA account held by Wells Fargo Bank (Bank). The following facts are relevant to our response:

1. The Bank notified the County that an account holder (now deceased) bequeathed an IRA account to the County to fund services provided by the Animal Service Division of the Public Safety Department. The Bank provided staff with numerous forms to complete in order to receive the funds.
2. The Bank originally suggested that the County enter into a banking relationship with it, in order to transfer the funds through an internal account transfer. After consultation with the Clerk's Office, staff informed the Bank that the County would not enter into such a relationship. The Bank has now provided forms to transfer the funds through a check or wire transfer.
3. There was apparently some confusion as to whether the Clerk, this Office, or another County department should take responsibility for completing the forms and placing the matter on a Board agenda for approval. After discussions with the Clerk's Office, your department, and the Financial Management Department (FMD), it was decided that the Public Safety Department should place the matter on a Board agenda with the assistance of FMD.

We provide the following legal advice in response to the RLS:

1. I have reviewed the completed forms and the proposed agenda item submitted to this Office yesterday by email from Renee Isrel, and have no objection from a legal standpoint to the matter being submitted to the Board for consideration.
2. It is my understanding that the County will account for the funds and utilize them in accordance with the bequest, in keeping with its established practices for handling such donations. In the event the Bank asks for additional documentation of this, please consult with our Office as to the appropriate form.

This concludes my response to the RLS. Please contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns.

William Clague, Chief Assistant County Attorney
Manatee County Attorney's Office
1112 Manatee Avenue West

Bradenton, FL 34205

(941)745-3750

william.clague@mymanatee.org