



Honesty - Integrity - Character

**Palm Beach County
Commission on Ethics**

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News Release

For immediate release:
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May 4, 2023
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Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on May 4, 2023

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following action at its monthly public meeting held on May 4, 2023.

Two advisory opinions were approved. The full opinions are available at <http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/opinions.htm>.

RQO 23-010: A member of the Boca Raton Planning and Zoning Board asked if the Code prohibited her from voting on construction or site plan issues involving Paradise Bank, considering that both she and her outside business are customers of the bank. Paradise Bank is not a customer or client of her outside business or employer.

The COE opined as follows: Although Paradise Bank may receive a financial benefit (gain or loss) depending on the outcome of the vote, there does not seem to be any nexus between the vote on the proposal and any economic gain or loss being received by the board member or her business, or by any other general customer of the bank. Therefore, the Code does not prohibit her from voting on or participating in matters involving Paradise Bank as long as her vote or participation does not result in a special financial benefit for herself or any other prohibited persons or entities.

RQO 23-011: A member of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) asked if the Code prohibited her from voting on a proposed comprehensive plan amendment involving GL Homes of Florida (GLH).

The COE opined as follows: Based on the facts submitted, because there does not seem to be any direct nexus between her vote on the proposed variance and any potential special financial gain or loss being received by the commissioner or any other prohibited person or entity, the Code does not prohibit her from participating in discussions or voting this matter involving GLH. The potential prohibited entities are discussed fully in the opinion.

A detailed explanation of all agenda items is available at <http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/meetings.htm>.

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