



Honesty - Integrity - Character

**Palm Beach County
Commission on Ethics**
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News Release

For immediate release:
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June 2, 2022
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Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on June 2, 2022

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following action at its monthly public meeting held on June 2, 2022.

Michael S. Kridel was sworn in as a COE Commissioner by Chief Judge Glenn D. Kelley, 15th Judicial Circuit of Florida. Commissioner Kridel was appointed by the president of the Palm Beach Chapter of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association for a four year term.

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

RQO 22-006: A municipal Ethics Officer asked if the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics (Code) prohibits a city commissioner's outside employer from continuing to represent a client when the client has contracts with the city and periodically has matters come before the City Commission.

The COE opined as follows: The city commissioner's outside employer is not prohibited from continued representation of its client as long as the commissioner does not use her position in any way, including participating in discussions or voting on any matter, to give her outside employer or its client a special financial benefit. When faced with a voting conflict, the commissioner must publicly disclose the nature of the conflict before the City Commission discusses the issue, refrain from participating in the discussions and voting on the matter, and file a state voting conflict form (8B) with the clerk and submit a copy to the COE.

RQO 22-008: A municipal employee asked if the Code prohibits him from working as an independent contractor for a company that is a vendor of his public employer.

The COE opined as follows: The Code does not prohibit him from working as an independent contractor for a vendor of his public employer as long as he does not perform any work, directly or indirectly, for his public employer and his work is performed outside of his municipal work hours.

RQO 22-009: A potential Palm Beach County advisory board member asked if the Code prohibits him from serving as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Palm Beach County Office of Equal Business Opportunity (OEBO) when his outside business has an ongoing contractual relationship with the county.

The COE opined as follows: He is not prohibited from serving as a member of the OEBO Advisory Committee because the advisory committee is purely advisory and does not have any role in the oversight of the contracts between his outside business and the county. However, the existence of the contractual relationship with the county must be disclosed at a public meeting of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners at the time of his appointment.

RQO 22-010: A municipal official asked if the Code prohibits her from from voting on issues related to the pending inverse condemnation litigation which claims the municipality widened B Road north onto private property without compensating the affected property owners, considering in her capacity as a realtor she has (both past and present) represented clients living or owning property on B Road.

The COE opined as follows: She is not prohibited from participating in discussions or voting on these matters because the possibility of a special financial benefit is too remote and speculative and none of the affected property owners are her customer or client.

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

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