



News Release

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2 Municipalities Adopt Ethics Laws Prior to Referendum

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The Commission on Ethics announces the adoption of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics by the cities of Lantana and Boynton Beach. Second reading of the adoption ordinance and inter-local agreement took place September 27 in Lantana and previously on September 21 in Boynton Beach. They will become the first municipalities to come under the jurisdiction of the Commission on Ethics once the interlocal agreements are ratified by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners. Ratification is likely to occur in October, prior to the countywide referendum which will appear on the ballot in the upcoming November elections. "The town believes that we do not have to wait until the November ballot for us to do the right thing," said Lantana Town Manager Mike Bornstein.

Lantana Mayor David J. Stewart stated that, "even though we are a smaller town we believe this is a big issue that needs our full support."

Training sessions for employees and officials in Lantana are scheduled for October 13. Boynton Beach City Manager Kurt Bressner said, "I am pleased that the Boynton Beach City Commission authorized our participation in the Palm Beach County Ethics Commission. We live in complex and challenging times. The training for the staff at Boynton Beach and the Ethics Program will help underscore the core value of integrity in our day-to-day work for the community."

Now that the ordinances have been adopted, they will go into effect upon the ratification of the interlocal agreements by the BCC. All Lantana and Boynton Beach public officials and employees will be required to undergo training before the ordinance goes into effect.

In response to the early adoption of the ethics code, James Titcomb, Executive Director of the Palm Beach County League of Cities said, "We applaud the cities that are being proactive in shifting toward the new model of open, transparent and honest governance. The League of Cities is here to help all our member cities who choose to come on board in the future for the betterment of Palm Beach County and all its citizens."

According to its establishing ordinance, the Commission on Ethics may not endorse or support any candidate, party, referendum or ballot initiative and therefore takes no position on the upcoming referendum. The ordinance does allow the commission to actively enter into agreements with "municipalities, taxing districts, and other public officials and entities" who "desire to benefit from the services of the commission on ethics." According to Alan Johnson, Executive Director of the Commission on Ethics, "the commission stands ready to inform both citizen groups and governments alike about the services and benefits of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics and Commission on Ethics initiative."

The Commission on Ethics hotline is (877) 766-5920. www.palmbeachcountyethics.com

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