



News Release

For Immediate Release

December 3, 2010

Contact:

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Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on December 2, 2010

Palm Beach County
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The Commission on Ethics took the following actions at its monthly public meeting held on December 2, 2010.

- Three (3) advisory opinions were approved by the Commission on Ethics (COE). Two (2) involved issues of outside employment. The other involved acceptance of registration fees by county employees to attend a work related horticulture workshop. A fourth letter concerning reimbursement of travel expenses was tentatively approved, pending editing by Executive Director Alan Johnson and resubmission to the COE at the next meeting on January 6, 2011.
- Executive Director Johnson held a workshop for the COE and the public concerning the rules and procedures for staff and the COE throughout the ethics complaint process. The workshop included a detailed discussion of public records and sunshine law exemptions and requirements.
- The Ethics Commission approved the recommendation of Executive Director Johnson concerning a revision to Section 2-443(a), *Misuse of public office or employment*. Currently, the Palm Beach County code of ethics prohibits a public employee or official from using their office to obtain a financial benefit for themselves, family or household members, outside employer, business, customer or client, or a nonprofit organization for which they are an officer or director. The COE recommended that this prohibition be extended to instances of non-financial misconduct where a public servant acts to "corruptly secure or attempt to secure a special privilege, benefit, or exemption."

Commissioners
Edward Rodgers, Chair
Manuel Farach, Vice Chair
Robin N. Fiore
Ronald E. Harbison
Bruce E. Reinhart

Executive Director
Alan S. Johnson

Administrative Assistant
Gina A. Levesque

A video record of the entire meeting is available under the multimedia tab on the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics website at, www.palmbeachcountyethics.com.

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

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