



County's Ethics Initiative Earns NACo Achievement Award

For immediate release: June 29, 2011

For more information: Public Affairs, 355-2754

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Electronic Press Release

Palm Beach County has earned a 2011 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for its sweeping ethics reform measures. The Palm Beach County Ethics Initiative was recognized as an effective and innovative program which contributes to and enhances county government and serves as an outstanding example of promoting transparency in government.

In 2009, following a grand jury report, Palm Beach County began a focused and comprehensive effort to develop an ethics initiative aimed at restoring public trust. In less than a year, the grand jury's recommendations were approved and implemented by the Board of County Commissioners.

They included establishment of an independent Commission on Ethics (COE), an independent Office of Inspector General (OIG), and a new county Code of Ethics.

In November 2010, 72 percent of voters approved a referendum extending oversight to the employees and elected officials of each of the county's 38 municipalities. Earlier this year, independently appointed drafting committees developed the code that now applies countywide.

NACO's annual Achievement Award Program began in 1970 to honor innovative county government programs. Awards are given in 21 different categories including county administration and management, environmental protection, children and youth, criminal justice, information technology, and health. This year's awards will be presented July 17 in Multnomah County, Oregon.

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