



**Palm Beach County
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News Release

For Immediate Release
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April 5, 2013
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Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on April 4, 2013

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following actions at its monthly public meeting held on April 4, 2013.

The COE heard three (3) complaints in executive session. All documents pertaining to C13-009 and C13-005 are published on the COE website at <http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/complaints.htm>. The COE took the following action:

C13-009: The COE made a finding of no legal sufficiency and dismissed the complaint.

C13-005: The COE made a finding of no probable cause and dismissed the complaint.

C13-004: The COE found that probable cause existed to believe that the respondent may have violated the Lobbyist Registration Ordinance, and ordered that a public hearing be set within 120 days.

One (1) advisory opinion was approved. The full opinion is published and available at: <http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/ethics/opinions.htm>.

RQO 13-005: A municipal official asked whether he was prohibited by the Code of Ethics (the Code) from participating in a workshop discussing the creation of a fiber network by his municipality, when his outside employer is a wholly owned subsidiary of a company that also owns a separate and distinct company providing fiber networking services.

The COE opined as follows: Elected officials are prohibited from using their official position, participating or voting on an issue that would give a special financial benefit to their outside employer. Based on the facts and circumstances presented here, an elected official employed by Florida Power and Light is not prohibited from voting or participating in a workshop to discuss the creation of a town-run fiber network. While FPL is a wholly owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy (NextEra), and NextEra is also the parent company of FPL FiberNet (FiberNet), FPL and FiberNet are separate corporations. They do not share a board of directors, address, employees, or provide similar services. The official is not compensated by Next Era or by FiberNet.

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

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