



Honesty - Integrity - Character

**Palm Beach County
Commission on Ethics**
The Historic 1916 Courthouse
300 N. Dixie Hwy, Suite 450
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
561.355.1915
FAX: 561.355.1904
Hotline: 877.766.5920

E-mail:

ethics@palmbeachcountvethics.com

Commissioners

Michael S. Kridel, Chair
Cleviss Headley, Vice Chair
Michael F. Loffredo
Judy M. Pierman
Sarah L. Shullman

Executive Director

Mark E. Bannon

General Counsel

Christie E. Kelley

Intake & Compliance Manager

Gina A. Levesque

Chief Investigator

Anthony C. Bennett

Investigator

Abigail Irizarry

News Release

For Immediate Release
Contact:

May 6, 2016
Mark E. Bannon, Executive Director
(561) 355-1937

Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on May 5, 2016

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following actions at its monthly public meeting held on May 5, 2016.

One complaint was heard in executive session. The final order is published on the COE website at: <http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/complaints.htm>.

C15-024: The COE reviewed and considered the investigative report, the statement and probable cause recommendation of the COE advocate and statement made by the Respondent. The COE found no probable cause, dismissed the case and issued a public report and final order of dismissal.

Two advisory opinions were discussed, and one advisory opinion was approved. The full opinion of the approved advisory opinion (RQO 16-014) is published and available at: <http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/opinions.htm>

RQO 16-011: The ethics officer for the City of West Palm Beach asked if a city employee who:
1) owns an outside business which offers fire rescue training is prohibited from providing such training to city fire rescue employees if the city pays directly or indirectly for the training,
2) works part-time for a business which offers fire rescue training is prohibited from providing such training to city fire rescue employees when that business is owned by another city employee, and
3) works part-time for a business which offers fire rescue training is prohibited from providing such training to city fire rescue employees when that business is not owned by a city employee.

The COE tabled the propose opinion and staff will resubmit a revised proposed opinion for review at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the COE.

RQO 16-014: The town clerk for the Town of Loxahatchee Groves asked if the Code of Ethics prohibits her from providing consulting services as an independent contractor for the City of Riviera Beach when she is a contract employee of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, which does not have any contracts for goods or services with the City of Riviera Beach.

The COE opined as follows: Sec. 2-442 of the Code specifically exempts other governmental entities from the definition of outside employer. Based on the facts provided, because the City of Riviera Beach does not meet the definition of an outside employer and the city does not have any contracts to provide goods or services to the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, there would be no conflict of interest if she works as an independent contractor for the City of Riviera Beach. Therefore, she is not prohibited from accepting part-time employment with the City of Riviera Beach.

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

###