



*Honesty - Integrity - Character*

**Palm Beach County  
Commission on Ethics**

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# News Release

For Immediate Release

December 9, 2016

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## Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on December 8, 2016

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following actions at its monthly public meeting held on December 8, 2016.

Two advisory opinions were approved. The full opinions are published and available at: <http://www.palmbeachcountvethics.com/opinions.htm>

**RQO 16-026:** A member of the Delray Beach Historic Preservation Board (HPB) asked if a conflict of interest would arise for him if he purchases a historic property in the city of Delray Beach while serving as a member of the board.

**The COE opined as follows:** As long as he does not use his official position as an HPB member to obtain a special financial benefit or to corruptly secure any special benefit and further provided there is no "quid pro quo" or other benefit offered or accepted in exchange for the purchase of the property, the code does not prohibit him from purchasing a historic property in the city of Delray Beach while serving as a member of the HPB. If he decides to remain on the HPB after purchasing the historic property, the code prohibits him from voting on an issue or participating in a matter before the HPB that gives a special financial benefit to himself or his spouse.

**RQO 16-027:** The assistant director of human resources for the city of Delray Beach asked if city employees may accept a discounted hotel rate offered by a local hotel.

**The COE opined as follows:** If the hotel is a vendor, lobbyist, or a principal or employer of a lobbyist who lobbies the city, acceptance of a discount from the hotel over \$100 in the aggregate for the calendar year would be a violation of the code. If the hotel is not a city vendor or a lobbyist or a principal or employer of a lobbyist who lobbies the city, then the above prohibition does not apply. However, depending on the amount of the discount, the city employees who accept the hotel discount may be required to report the gift.

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

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