



*Honesty - Integrity - Character*

**Palm Beach County  
Commission on Ethics**

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# News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact:

May 4, 2017

Mark E. Bannon, Executive Director

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## Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on May 4, 2017

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following action at its monthly public meeting held on May 4, 2017.

One advisory opinion was approved. The full opinion is published and available at:

<http://www.palmbeachcountylethics.com/opinions.htm>

**RQO 17-004:** Palm Beach County Mayor Paulette Burdick asked what prohibitions under the Code of Ethics would apply to her if she serves as an executive champion of Achieve Palm Beach County (Achieve) in her private capacity and what prohibitions would the code place on fundraising efforts on behalf of Achieve.

**The COE opined as follows:** Based on the information provided, the duties of the executive champions include the same duties as a typical board of directors. Because they are fulfilling the same functions, the executive champions are serving as a "de facto" board of directors. Therefore, she is prohibited from using her official position as Palm Beach County mayor in any way to give a special financial benefit to Achieve. If any matter comes before the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners which would result in a special financial benefit to Achieve, she must (1) publicly disclose the nature of the conflict before the BCC discusses the matter; (2) refrain from voting on and participating in the matter; and (3) file a state voting conflict form (Form 8b).

In terms of fundraising, if she serves as an executive champion, she would be prohibited from lending her name and official title to a fundraising effort on behalf of Achieve. Any solicitation would need to be in her personal name without any reference to her public title or connection to her official position. If she wishes to use her official title to solicit donations on behalf of Achieve, then she may not serve as an executive champion. In addition, any solicitation in excess of \$100 from a county vendor, lobbyist, or principal or employer of a lobbyist must be logged and the log must be submitted to the COE within 30 days of the event, or if no event, within 30 days of the solicitation.

A detailed explanation of all agenda items is available at

<http://www.palmbeachcountylethics.com/meetings.htm>.

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