



Honesty - Integrity - Character

**Palm Beach County
Commission on Ethics**

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News Release

For immediate release:
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February 7, 2019
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Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on February 7, 2019

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following actions at its monthly public meeting held on February 7, 2019.

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

RQO 19-003: A Palm Beach County advisory board member asked if a conflict of interest would exist for her if she was hired as a trainer by a county vendor to provide training as a part of a board project.

The COE opined as follows: Because her board is purely advisory, she is eligible for a waiver. A waiver will require the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners (BCC), upon full disclosure of the contract at a public meeting to waive the conflict on interest. If you were appointed by the entire BCC or confirmation of your appointment was made by the entire board, an affirmative vote of a majority plus one of the total board membership is required. If you were appointed by only one member of the BCC, the appointing board member alone can waive this conflict of interest. Thus, as long as the conflict of interest in having a contractual relationship with the county vendor is waived, the code does not prohibit you from working as a trainer for the vendor while serving as an advisory board member.

RQO 19-004: A county employee asked if it would violate the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics if he works part-time selling tools for a franchise owner representing a large national tool manufacturing company, where neither the franchise owner nor the tool company are vendors of the county, and where all sales are made directly to individual automobile service professionals at their place of work, which includes sales to other county employees on county property at their assigned worksites.

The COE opined as follows: His employment would not violate the code so long as the sales are conducted on his personal time, and he does not use or attempt to use his position as a county employee to influence or assist in these sales, or in gaining access to the county work sites to make such sales.

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

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