



Honesty - Integrity - Character

**Palm Beach County
Commission on Ethics**

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News Release

For immediate release:
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September 5, 2019
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Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on September 5, 2019

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following actions at its monthly public meeting held on September 5, 2019.

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

RQO 19-013: The Executive Director of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation asked if she is prohibited from soliciting or accepting sponsorship donations for the Legislative Delegation reception from county vendors or from lobbyists or principals or employers of lobbyists who lobby the county, where the reception will be free and open to the public, with the exception of those individuals who under state or local law are prohibited from receiving such a gift and who will be charged a fee of \$15 to attend.

The COE opined as follows: No violation will occur so long as the following conditions are met:

- (1) County Administration or the Board of County Commissioners must declare the event to have a public purpose;
- (2) The donations are accepted on behalf of the county and used solely for a public purpose;
- (3) No quid pro quo or other special consideration is given to donors in exchange for a donation.

RQO 19-014: An advisory board member for the village of Tequesta asked if he is prohibited from serving on the board when he had entered into a contract with the village to provide construction contract administration prior to his appointment to the advisory board.

The COE opined as follows: Because the advisory board does not provide any oversight of the subject contract, there is no prohibition as long as the existence of the contract is disclosed at a public meeting of the Village Council.

RQO 19-015: A city of Boynton Beach employee asked if she is prohibited from submitting her photographs for the city's New City Hall Arts Project and receiving compensation if her work is selected.

The COE opined as follows: A violation will not occur so long as the total amount of the contracts or transactions for the art commissions does not exceed \$500 per calendar year, or she donates her photographs to the city without receiving any compensation, and she does not use her position with the city in any way to have her work selected over the work of another applicant.

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

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