



Honesty - Integrity - Character

**Palm Beach County
Commission on Ethics**
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News Release

For immediate release:
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June 3, 2021
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Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on June 3, 2021

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following actions at its monthly public meeting held on June 3, 2021.

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

C21-003: After considering the investigative report, probable cause recommendation, and statements from the advocate and Respondent's attorney, the COE found that probable cause did not exist and dismissed the case.

One advisory opinion was approved. The full opinion is published and available at: <http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/opinions.htm>.

RQO 21-009: The Ethics Officer for the city of West Palm Beach (city) asked if a prohibited conflict of interest would exist for a city commissioner who is employed by a non-profit foundation, which leases building space from the city for \$1 per year.

The COE opined as follows: A prohibited conflict of interest would not exist as long as the commissioner remains completely removed from any negotiations or the management of the lease between the city and the non-profit foundation, does not use her official position to influence the process in any way, does not participate in discussions or vote on any matter which would give a special financial benefit to the foundation, and does not wrongfully use her official position to corruptly secure any special benefit for the foundation, including a benefit that is not financial in nature. In addition, to avoid any appearance of impropriety, the commissioner should not be the foundation's representative who signs the contract between the city and the foundation, even though she will not be involved in the negotiations. In addition, a prohibited contract does not exist between the foundation and the city because the total amount of the contract does not exceed \$500 per calendar year.

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

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