

# News Release

For immediate release:  
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## Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on Dec. 2, 2021

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following action at its monthly public meeting held on Dec. 2, 2021.

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

**C20-004:** After considering the investigative report, probable cause recommendation, and statements by the COE advocate and Respondent, the COE found that probable cause did not exist and dismissed the matter.

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

**RQO 21-016:** A county employee asked if the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics (Code) prohibits him from accepting a donation from a county vendor for a nonprofit organization of which you are an officer or director.

**The COE opined as follows:** The Code does not prohibit him from soliciting or accepting a donation for a nonprofit organization from a county vendor provided there is no quid pro quo or other special consideration given. He must maintain a record of any solicitations or donations from any county vendors or lobbyists or principals or employers of lobbyists who lobby the county and submit it to the COE within 30 days of the event or if not solicited or donated for an event, then within 30 days of the solicitation or donation. His participation in fundraising for the organization also needs to be in his personal name only without any reference to his official title or connection to his official position as a county employee.

**RQO 21-017:** A municipal employee asked if the Code prohibits him from writing a social media post about another employee who donated a Little Free Library (LFL) to the city, which he does for anyone who donates one.

**The COE opined as follows:** Because he is treating the employee the same as every other donor of a LFL, he is writing the post as a part of his normal duties as the public information officer, and the donation of the LFL was not given as quid pro quo in exchange for promoting the employee's book, the municipal employee would not violate the Code by writing the post about the donation.

**RQO 21-018:** The police chief of a municipality asked if the Code prohibits him from serving on the board of directors of Habitat for Humanity (HFH), a nonprofit organization that operates in the county and builds homes in his municipality, when he will not be involved in any City Commission-

related approvals or denials of HFH projects or contractual relationships between the city and HFH.

**The COE opined as follows:** He may not use his official position as the police chief in any way to give a special financial benefit to HFH. Therefore, any fundraising on behalf of HFH needs to be in his personal name only without any reference to his official title or connection to his official position as the police chief.

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

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