



Honesty - Integrity - Character

**Palm Beach County
Commission on Ethics**

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News Release

For immediate release:
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May 5, 2022
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Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on May 5, 2022

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following action at its monthly public meeting held on May 5, 2022.

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

C22-001: The COE advocate and Respondent presented a negotiated settlement agreement to the COE. After considering the investigative report, probable cause recommendation, and statements from the advocate, Respondent, and Respondent's attorney, the COE issued a letter of instruction and dismissed the matter.

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

RQO 22-005: The City Attorney for the city of Boca Raton (City) asked if two City Council members are prohibited from participating in discussions or voting on a resolution authorizing the reimbursement of the City deputy mayor's legal fees when the legal fees were incurred defending a complaint that involved the City deputy mayor's endorsement of the two council members' reelection campaigns.

The COE opined as follows: The City Council members are not prohibited from voting on the reimbursement resolution coming before the City Council because the resolution does not give either one of them a special financial benefit.

RQO 22-007: A county employee asked if he is prohibited from participating as a shortlist or selection committee member for the Environmental Resources Management (ERM) Department's upcoming Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA) solicitation when his former employer will likely submit a bid for the CCNA solicitation.

The COE opined as follows: Although his former outside employer will likely be submitting a bid for the CCNA solicitation, the Code does not prohibit him from participating on the shortlist or selection committees for the CCNA contract as long as his participation will not give a special financial benefit to any other prohibited persons or entities listed in Sec. 2-443(a)(1-7). Although there may be no per se prohibited conflict of interest under the Code, an appearance of impropriety may exist due to the engineering firm being his former outside employer.

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

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