



*Honesty - Integrity - Character*

**Palm Beach County  
Commission on Ethics**

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# News Release

For immediate release:  
Contact:

September 4, 2025  
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## Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on September 4, 2025

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following action at its monthly public meeting held on September 4, 2025.

The COE approved two advisory opinions. The full opinions will be available on the COE's website within seven days at: <https://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/coepub/>.

**RQO 25-008:** Does the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics (Code) prohibit a municipality from accepting donations for its National Night Out event when the donations may come from vendors or lobbyists of the municipality?

### **COE OPINION:**

The municipality may accept donations for this event from a vendor, lobbyist, or principal or employer of a lobbyist of the municipality, if the donations fall under an applicable gift exception. Here, it appears that the donations will qualify because they will be used solely for a public purpose. Thus, no violation will occur if the following conditions are met:

1. City Administration or the City Commission declares the event has a public purpose;
2. The donations are accepted on behalf of the City and used solely for a public purpose; and
3. There is no quid pro quo or other special consideration given to donors in exchange for a donation.

**RQO 25-009:** A municipal Planning and Zoning Board member asked if the Code would prohibit him from participating in discussions or voting on matters when a customer or client of his outside business is the owner of a residential property located adjacent to the proposed project?

**COE OPINION:**

The board member is not prohibited from participating in discussions or voting on matters related to the project because the size of the class affected by this project is large enough.

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

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