



**Palm Beach County
Commission on Ethics**

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News Release

For Immediate Release
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January 8, 2015
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Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on January 7, 2015

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following actions at its monthly public meeting held on January 7, 2015.

One complaint, C14-007, was heard. All documents pertaining to C14-007 are published on the COE website at <http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/complaints.htm>.

C14-007: The COE issued a public report and final order of dismissal due to no probable cause. This matter came before the COE based on a complaint filed on August 21, 2014. The COE reviewed and considered the investigative report, documentary submissions, and the oral statement and recommendation of the COE advocate and dismissed the matter.

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

ROO 14-039: A customer service consultant for the Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc., which has a contract with Palm Beach County for paratransit services, asked if a prohibited conflict of interest would exist if an employee of the agency becomes a member of the Palm Tran Service Board, which makes recommendations to the county about the paratransit services provided by Palm Tran Connection?

The COE opined as follows: If selected to serve on the Palm Tran Service Board, the agency employee will need to publicly disclose the existence of the contract between the county and the agency when the employee is appointed. Based on the facts submitted, this advisory board is not purely advisory since the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners delegated its authority to approve Palm Tran fixed-route transportation service adjustments to the Palm Tran Service Board. However, since the Palm Tran Service Board does not have any oversight, regulation, management, or policy-setting recommendations regarding its contract, only a disclosure is required.

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

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