



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

For Immediate Release

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Mark E. Bannon, Interim Executive Director

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Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on November 5, 2015

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following actions at its monthly public meeting held on November 5, 2015.

The Commissioners selected their top five candidates to interview for the Executive Director position. The candidates who will be interviewed are Mark Bannon, Judith Levine, Tamar Nedzar, Kimberly Tendrich, and Gary Lippman. An interview date has not been set.

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

RQO 15-044: The attorney for the Municipal Public Safety Communications Consortium of Palm Beach County (MPSCC) asked if the Palm Beach County Lobbyist Registration Ordinance's cone of silence provisions apply to communications between members of the MPSCC and the officials and employees of the cities of Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, and Delray Beach, where those cities have entered into interlocal agreements with Palm Beach County concerning use of a proposed countywide public safety radio system (Palm Beach County RFP). The MPSCC did not submit a proposal for the RFP.

The COE opined as follows: The cone of silence provisions do not apply to MPSCC or any of its representatives since MPSCC is neither a respondent nor a representative of a respondent to the county RFP. The interlocal agreements between the county and Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, and Delray Beach are agreements that are separate and distinct from any agreement made between the county and the respondents to the county RFP.

RQO 15-045: A prospective member of the Palm Tran Service Board (PTSB) asked if the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics (Code) prohibits her from serving as a PTSB member if her husband works for the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County and if she may still seek employment with Palm Beach County or with Palm Tran.

The COE opined as follows: Her husband's employment at the Solid Waste Authority, a governmental entity, would not prohibit her from serving as a PTSB member. In addition, the Code does not prohibit her from seeking employment with the county or with Palm Tran as long as she does not use her position on the PTSB or influence others to take or fail to take any action which would give her a special financial benefit.

RQO 15-046: A city of Greenacres employee asked if the Code prohibits city employees from being recognized for being instrumental in championing program quality and accepting a monetary award from a nonprofit organization who is neither a vendor nor lobbyist of the city.

The COE opined as follows: The Code does not prohibit the city employees from accepting an award for professional or civic achievement, even where such an award is monetary. Since an award for professional achievement is an exception to the definition of a gift, the city employees are not required to report the award to the COE.

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

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