



*Honesty - Integrity - Character*

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

For immediate release:  
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May 6, 2021  
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### Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on May 6, 2021

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following actions at its monthly public meeting held on May 6, 2021.

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

**C21-004:** After considering the investigative report and inquiry, probable cause recommendation, and negotiated settlement agreement between the COE advocate and respondent, the COE found that probable cause existed but that the violation was inadvertent, unintentional, or insubstantial and issued a letter of instruction to conclude the matter.

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

**RQO 21-006:** A municipal official asked how the code of ethics affects the operation of her outside business.

**The COE opined as follows:** As long as she and her outside business do not enter into any contract or other transaction for goods or services with the city she represents or with a city vendor, other than where an exception applies, she is not prohibited from providing her services to members of the general public. Although the code does not prohibit her outside business from providing these services in her private capacity, she would have an ongoing responsibility to refrain from using her official position as a city commissioner to give a special financial benefit to herself or her outside business.

**RQO 21-007:** A potential county employee asked whether the code would prohibit her from seeing other county employees in her private capacity as a mental health therapist.

**The COE opined as follows:** The code does not prohibit her from offering her services to county employees in her private capacity during non-work hours as long as her outside business does not enter into any contract or other transaction for goods or services with the county or with a county vendor, other than where an exception applies. Although the code does not prohibit her from seeing county employees in her private capacity, she would have an ongoing responsibility to refrain from using her official position with the county to give a special financial benefit to herself or her outside business.

**RQO 21-008:** An assistant city attorney asked if the code prohibits an advisory board member from discussing a capital improvement project that is coming before the board when the project was requested by the homeowner's association (HOA) on which he serves as a board member

**The COE opined as follows:** The board member would be prohibited from discussing the capital improvement project requested by the HOA because it would only impact roads used by his community so it would give a special financial benefit only to the community within which the PZB member lives.

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

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