



Honesty - Integrity - Character

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

For immediate release:
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August 5, 2021
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Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on August 5, 2021

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following actions at its monthly public meeting held on August 5, 2021.

The Executive Director announced that he would be retiring at the end of December 2021.

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

C21-005: After considering the investigative report, probable cause recommendation, and statements from the advocate and Respondent's attorney, the COE found that probable cause did not exist and dismissed the case.

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

RQO 21-010: The Village Attorney for the Village of Wellington asked how an elected official who serves on the board of a non-profit organization could avoid violating the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics (Code) while soliciting for donations on behalf of that organization.

The COE opined as follows: The Code does not prohibit elected officials or employees from participating in charitable fundraising, provided any solicitation or acceptance of donations in excess of \$100 from a vendor, lobbyist, principal or employer of a lobbyist who sells, leases or lobbies their municipal government is transparently recorded in accordance with the charitable solicitation requirements of the code. They must also refrain from using their official position while soliciting on behalf of an organization of which they are an officer or director.

RQO 21-011: The Village Attorney for the Village of Wellington asked if it would violate Section 2-443(a) of the Code if the Wellington Historical Society (Society), of which she is the president, enters into a co-sponsorship agreement with the Village, her public employer

The COE opined as follows: Because she is on the board of directors of the Society, the Code prohibits her from using her official position as the Village Attorney, or influencing others to take some action, to give a special financial benefit to the Society. Because no funding is involved in the co-sponsorship agreement, both the Society and the Village will provide services for each other, and such co-sponsorship agreements are offered to other organizations, the co-sponsorship agreement would not result in a special financial benefit to the Society. However, to avoid the appearance of impropriety, it is recommended that she remain completely removed from any negotiations or discussion regarding the agreement and she should not be one of the representatives who executes the agreement between the Village and the Society.

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

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