



Honesty - Integrity - Character

**Palm Beach County
Commission on Ethics**

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News Release

For immediate release:
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March 10, 2022
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Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on March 10, 2022

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following action at its monthly public meeting held on March 10, 2022.

Peter L. Cruise and Rodney G. Romano were sworn in for second terms as COE Commissioners by Judge Sarah Shullman. Commissioner Cruise was appointed by the president of Florida Atlantic University. Commissioner Romano was appointed by the board of directors of the Palm Beach County League of Cities, Inc.

Commissioner Romano was elected COE Chair, and Commissioner Kugler was elected COE Vice Chair.

The COE discussed and approved the language it is proposing for review by the Ordinance Review Committee to replace the Palm Beach chapter of the Florida Institute of CPAs in Sec. 2-255(a)(4) of the COE Ordinance.

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

RQO 22-003: A municipal employee asked if the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics (Code) prohibits him from working as an independent contractor for a company that is a vendor of his public employer.

The COE opined as follows: As long as his consulting business does not enter into any contract or other transaction for goods or services with his municipal employer, the Code does not prohibit him from operating this business outside his municipal work hours. Further, the Code prohibits him from entering into any contractual relationships with a vendor of his municipal employer if he would be providing good or services to his municipal employer through that contract. He also has an ongoing responsibility to refrain from using his official position in any way to give a special financial benefit to himself, his outside consulting business, or a customer or client of his outside consulting business.

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

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