



Honesty - Integrity - Character

**Palm Beach County
Commission on Ethics**

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News Release

For immediate release:
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April 14, 2023
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Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on April 13, 2023

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following action at its monthly public meeting held on April 13, 2023.

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

C23-005: After considering the investigative report, probable cause recommendation, and statements by the COE advocate and Respondent, the COE issued a Letter of Instruction after determining that the violation was unintentional, inadvertent, or insubstantial.

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

RQO 23-007: A Palm Beach County employee asked if it would violate the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics (Code) if she accepted tickets to "Evening on Antique Row", when the tickets are being provided by the Historical Society of Palm Beach County (HSPBC)? **The COE opined as follows:** The Code does not preclude the acceptance of tickets from HSPBC as long as the guidance in the opinion, including determining the adjusted value of the tickets, and returning any value in excess of \$100 to HSPBC, is followed. The opinion outlines all of the necessary guidelines with specificity.

RQO 23-008: A Palm Beach County vendor, who lobbies on behalf of the County at the state level, asked if the Code precluded him from also providing lobbying services to potential County vendors, when he would be lobbying the County on behalf of those vendors?

The COE opined as follows: The Code does not preclude a County vendor from providing lobbying services to other vendors of the County, even if those services result in his appearance before the County. The opinion outlines the Code's requirements regarding lobbyist registration and the applicable gift law provisions.

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

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