



*Honesty - Integrity - Character*

**Palm Beach County  
Commission on Ethics**

The Historic 1916 Courthouse  
300 N. Dixie Hwy, Suite 450  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
561.355.1915  
FAX: 561.355.1904  
Hotline: 877.766.5920  
E-mail: [ethics@pbcgov.org](mailto:ethics@pbcgov.org)

**Commissioners**

Michael H. Kugler, Chair  
Kristin A. Vara-Garcia, Vice Chair  
Peter L. Cruise  
Michael S. Kridel  
Rodney G. Romano

**Executive Director**  
Christie Kelley

**General Counsel**  
Rhonda Giger

**Intake & Compliance Manager**  
Gina A. Levesque

**Education & Communications Manager**  
S. Lizabeth Martin

**Investigator**  
Mark A. Higgs

**Investigator**  
Abigail Irizarry

# News Release

For immediate release:  
Contact:

February 2, 2024  
Christie Kelley, Executive Director  
(561) 355-1915

## Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on February 1, 2024

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics took the following action at its monthly public meeting held on February 1, 2024.

The Commission approved a statement in opposition to SB 7014 as amended, which will prohibit self-initiated complaints by local ethics commissions.

The Commission approved one advisory opinion. The full opinion is available at <http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/opinions.htm>.

**RQO 24-001:** A County employee asked if the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics (Code) prohibited her spouse's outside employer from contracting with the County.

**The COE opined as follows:** The Code generally restricts any actions that would result in a spouse or a spouse's employer receiving a special financial benefit. However, if the guidance in this opinion is carefully followed, and the employee abstains from participation in certain aspects of relevant projects, then the Code will not preclude the employer from becoming a County vendor.

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

###