



# Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics

## Commissioners

Manuel Farach, *Chair*  
Robin N. Fiore, *Vice Chair*  
Edward Rodgers  
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## Executive Director

Alan S. Johnson

In Re: Everette Vaughan

C11-026

## Public Report and Final Order of Dismissal

COMPLAINANT, Sheryl Steckler, Inspector General, filed the above-referenced COMPLAINT on December 16, 2011, alleging a possible ethics violation involving RESPONDENT, Everette Vaughan, 911 Project Manager, PBC Emergency Management Division.

The COMPLAINT alleges that RESPONDENT violated §2-444(a) of the gift law. For the reasons set forth below, this complaint is **DISMISSED**.

Pursuant to Chapter 2, Article V, Division 8, Section 2-258(a)<sup>1</sup> of the Palm Beach County Code, the Commission on Ethics is empowered to enforce the Code of Ethics. Limitations and prohibitions regarding gifts from vendors to public employees may be found in Article XIII, Section 2-444(a) of the Palm Beach County Code.<sup>2</sup>

Pursuant to Article V, Division 8, Section 2-260(b)(2), a sworn COMPLAINT filed by the Inspector General in compliance with the requirements of this subsection is **LEGALLY SUFFICIENT** as a matter of law. Therefore, the Commission on Ethics was obligated under section 2-260(d) to commence a preliminary investigation. Allegations were made on the basis of Whistleblower statements that were not substantiated by the preliminary investigation. Therefore, on February 13, 2012, the COMPLAINT

<sup>1</sup> Article V, Division 8, Section 2-258. Powers and duties. (a) The commission on ethics shall be authorized to exercise such powers and shall be required to perform such duties as are hereinafter provided. The commission on ethics shall be empowered to review, interpret, render advisory opinions and enforce the;

(1) County Code of Ethics;  
(2) County Post-Employment Ordinance, and  
(3) County Lobbyist Registration Ordinance.

<sup>2</sup> Article XIII, Section 2-444(a) Gift law. No county commissioner, member of a local governing body, mayor or chief executive when not a member of the governing body, or employee, or any other person or business entity on his or her behalf, shall knowingly solicit or accept directly or indirectly, any gift with a value of greater than one hundred dollars (\$100) in the aggregate for the calendar year from any person or business entity that the recipient knows, or should know with the exercise of reasonable care, is a vendor, lobbyist or any principal or employer of a lobbyist who lobbies, sells or leases to the county or municipality as applicable. (Emphasis added)

was determined by staff to lack **PROBABLE CAUSE**, and presented to the Commission on Ethics on April 5, 2012 with a recommendation of dismissal.

Thereafter, the Commission reviewed and considered the investigative report, documentary submissions and the recommendation of staff and determined that there was no evidence to support a finding of probable cause in this matter.


Therefore it is:

**ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that **NO PROBABLE CAUSE** exists and the COMPLAINT against RESPONDENT, Everette Vaughan, is hereby **DISMISSED**.

**DONE AND ORDERED** by the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics in public session on April 5, 2012.

Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics,

By:

  
Manuel Farach, Chair