



Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics

Commissioners
Manuel Farach, Chair
Robin N. Fiore, Vice Chair
Ronald E. Harbison
Daniel T. Galo
Patricia L. Archer

Executive Director
Steven P. Cullen

In Re: John Greene

C13-002

PUBLIC REPORT AND FINDING OF NO PROBABLE CAUSE

COMPLAINANT, Mark Bellisimo, filed the above-referenced COMPLAINT on January 8, 2013, alleging a possible violation of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics involving RESPONDENT, John Greene. The COMPLAINT alleges that, RESPONDENT, John Greene, received gifts prohibited by the code of ethics. The COMPLAINT further alleges that these gifts were given by principals of lobbyists who lobbied the Village and/or that Respondent accepted these gifts in exchange for his votes on development matters before the Village of Wellington Council.

Pursuant to Chapter 2, Article V, Division 8, Section 2-258(a)¹ of the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Ordinance, the Commission on Ethics is empowered to enforce the county code of ethics. After obtaining sworn statements from material witnesses and documentary evidence the COMPLAINT was determined by staff to be LEGALLY SUFFICIENT on March 14, 2013.

Information obtained during the inquiry was adopted into the investigation and presented to the Commission on Ethics on May 2, 2013 with a recommendation that probable cause exists to believe that a violation of the code of ethics had occurred. At that time, the Commission conducted a Probable Cause hearing. The Commission reviewed and considered the inquiry and investigative reports, documentary submissions, recommendation of staff, as well as oral statements of the RESPONDENT and ADVOCATE. At the conclusion of the hearing the Commission on Ethics determined that NO PROBABLE CAUSE exists in this matter.

Accordingly, we find that there are no reasonably trustworthy facts and circumstances for the COMMISSION ON ETHICS to believe that the RESPONDENT may have violated Sections 2-444(e), 2-443(a)1 and 2-443(b) of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics.

¹ Article V, Division 8, section 2-258(a). *Powers and Duties*. 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) Countywide Code of Ethics;
- (2) County Post-employment Ordinance; and
- (3) County Lobbyist Registration Ordinance

Therefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED THAT NO PROBABLE CAUSE exists and the **COMPLAINT** against **RESPONDENT**, John Greene is dismissed.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics in public session on May 2, 2013.

Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics,

By:



Robin N. Fiore, Vice Chair