



Palm Beach County
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News Release

For Immediate Release

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Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on January 6, 2011

The Commission on Ethics took the following actions at its monthly public meeting held on January 6, 2010.

The COE held an executive session hearing in the matter of C10-006. The case was continued to the February 3, 2011 meeting for further deliberation.

- Five (5) Advisory Opinions were approved by the Commission. The full opinions are published and available at <http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/opinions.htm>
 - RQO10-040 involves solicitation of funds by a county employee (Drowning Prevention Coalition/Fire Rescue Department) for public purposes (funds to provide free swimming lessons to underprivileged special needs children).
 - RQO10-032 involves county fire rescue employees accepting travel reimbursement for attending seminars and conferences. The opinion includes various reimbursement scenarios ranging from government entities to private vendors.
 - RQO10-036 involves a private vendor posting free advertisements on a non-profit corporation's newsletter (Coalition for Independent Living Services) where an employee of the non-profit sits on a county advisory board (Commission for Affordable Housing) before which the vendor regularly appears.
 - RQO10-039 involves a member of a county board (Friends of Mounts Botanical Gardens) that is not appointed by the BCC who has submitted a grant proposal to Mounts Botanical Gardens, a county facility.
 - RQO 10-041 involves an employee in the planning and zoning department of the city of Boynton Beach who was offered a position on the board of directors of a church in Delray Beach. As a church director, he would be involved in travel and other activities on behalf of the church including mission work, conferences and solicitation of donations. In addition, the church is negotiating the purchase of property in Boynton Beach. While the code of ethics does not prohibit him from being on the church board of directors, the opinion includes various prohibitions against using his official position to benefit the church, accepting reimbursement from any vendor or service provider for Boynton Beach without a waiver from the

Boynton Beach City Commission, or accepting or soliciting any gift (including reimbursement for travel) for himself or the church in excess of \$100.00 from a lobbyist or vendor who employs a lobbyist.

- One (1) proposed advisory opinion was rejected by the COE and staff instructed to revise the opinion as follows:
 - RQO10-038-OE involves a Boynton Beach employee working as a subcontractor for a private vendor doing work for the City of Boynton Beach. The employee is a chief electrician and the sub-contract would involve electrical work. The COE opined that given the close relationship between the employee's public job and the private subcontracted work he would be doing, that a waiver by the Boynton Beach Commission is necessary, as well as appropriate merit rule approval, before he can work as a private subcontractor doing electrical work for his public employer.

A video record of the COE meeting is available under the multimedia tab on the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics website at, www.palmbeachcountyethics.com. Posted advisory opinions may be found under the opinion tab.

The Commission on Ethics hotline is (877) 766-5920.

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