

# TOP TEN ETHICS RULES Employees, Officials, and Advisory Board Members Need to Remember About the Code of Ethics

# 1. ALWAYS... ASK FIRST, ACT LATER

#### GIFTS

 You may not accept more than \$100 per year in gifts from a lobbyist, principal or employer of a lobbyist or person or entity that does business with your employer.

Gifts from persons or entities which total more than \$100 per year, other than those prohibited above, must be reported on a form. There are 11 gift exceptions. Immediately refuse or return gifts which are prohibited.

## **USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION**

4. You may not use your official position to give a special financial benefit to yourself, broadly defined family members, an outside employer or business and other defined entities, or "corruptly" use your authority for any person's benefit.

5. You may not contract with, or do business with, your employer. There are 5 exceptions.

Travel expenses, given by persons or entities who are vendors or bidding to be vendors of your governmental employer are prohibited unless waived by your governing body, or unless they are from another governmental entity.

#### **OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT**

Generally, subject to your employer's rules, you may work for an outside employer that does not do business with your county or municipal employer. It may even be permissible to work part-time for an outside employer that does do business with your employer, if certain conditions are met.

# **VOTING CONFLICTS**

 Officials and advisory board members may not participate in and vote on matters which give a special financial benefit to themselves, or those within in a chain of relationship(s).

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

You may not use "inside information" to benefit yourself or others. You must be honest in statements made on your employment application. If you have hiring authority, or the ability to advocate to one who does, you may not hire, or promote the hiring of, a broadly defined family member.

 The Code of Ethics imposes other restrictions on lobbyists, advisory board members and the activities of certain employees after they leave employment.

# CONTACT US

**Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics** 

#### The Historic 1916 PBC Courthouse

300 N. Dixie Hwy, Suite 450 West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Telephone: 561-355-1915

877-766-5920

Website: www.palmbeachcountyethics.com Email: ethics@palmbeachcountyethics.com