

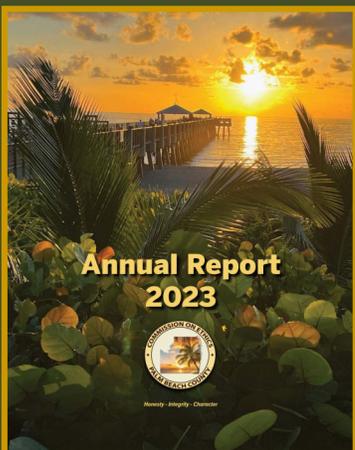


Newsletter Summer 2024

What's New!

Our 2023 Annual Report is here. We've been busy:

- 28 new Advisory Opinions
- 720 Customer Requests for assistance
- 1,072 Gift Forms reviewed
- More than 23,000 website views



The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics

Ethics in Action



Kristin A. Vara-Garcia, new Chair for the Commission on Ethics, being sworn in by Judge Danielle Sherriff



Ethics Awareness Month



Meet & Greet

Summer Travel Plans

What are your summer travel plans? In the sunshine state, there are many options. We can't say where to go or how much to spend, but we can caution local public officials and employees to not accept travel expenses, directly or indirectly, from any contractors, vendors, service providers or bidders. [Sec. 2-443 (f), Accepting travel expenses.] Whether registration fees, lodging, or meals, be cautious—remember to **Ask First, Act Later**.

Mission

The mission of the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics is to foster integrity in public services, to promote the public's trust and confidence in that service, and to prevent conflicts between private interests and public duties.

The Palm Beach County
Commission on Ethics
Newsletter
Summer 2024



Commission on Ethics
Commissioners

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

Ethical behavior is always important...in the context of local government because ensuring that our chosen representatives are acting in good faith and with fair dealings is essential to instilling trust within the community.

- Kristin A. Vara-Garcia

Learn with the Commission on Ethics

Noninterference: Sec. 2-447 of the Code of Ethics

It shall be a violation of this article for any person: (a) to retaliate against, punish, threaten, harass, or penalize any person for communicating, cooperating with, or assisting the Commission on Ethics or the Inspector General; or (b) to interfere, obstruct, or attempt to interfere or obstruct, without valid legal basis, any investigation conducted by the Commission on Ethics or the Inspector General.

Q: What is the Lobbyist Registration Ordinance?

A: The Commission on Ethics Lobbyist Registration Ordinance preserves and maintains the integrity of the governmental decision-making process. [Sec. 2-351, Title and purpose.]

Therefore, it is necessary that the identity and activities of certain persons who engage in efforts to influence the county commissioners, members of the local municipal governing bodies, mayors or chief executive officers that are not members of local municipal governing bodies, county and municipal advisory board members, and county and municipal employees on matters within their official duties, be publicly and regularly disclosed.

Prior to lobbying, all lobbyists shall submit an original, fully executed registration form to county administration, which shall serve as the official location for countywide lobbyist registration and which shall be known as the "Central Lobbyist Registry." [Sec. 2-353, Registration and expenditures.]

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics can provide speakers for civic and community organizations to learn more about the Commission on Ethics. Whether you want a general overview of the Code or something more specific-- we're happy to provide this service to educate and inform.

If you'd like to schedule a speaker, reach out to 561-355-1667 or ethics@pbc.gov.

Visit us: www.PalmBeachCountyEthics.com

Email us: ethics@pbc.gov

Call us: 561-355-1915