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Investigator Mark A. Higgs **News Release**

For immediate release: Contact: February 2, 2023 Christie Kelley, Executive Director (561) 355-1937

Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on February 2, 2023

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following action at its monthly public meeting held on February 2, 2023.

One advisory opinion was approved. The full opinion is available at <u>http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/opinions.htm.</u>

RQO 23-002: A Palm Beach County employee asked if it would violate the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics if she shared the details of a "GoFundMe" page with other county employees when the funds raised would benefit her and be used to offset expenditures associated with an incident unrelated to her employment.

The COE opined as follows: The Code does not preclude a person from providing information to or soliciting donations on a "GoFundMe" page from other County employees as long as all of the requirements outlined in this opinion are adhered to including that any requests for donations be in the employees' personal name only without any reference to her county title or position, that no gifts are solicited or accepted from a prohibited source, and that any noted gift reporting requirements are followed. The opinion outlines all of the guidelines with specificity in the opinion. The COE did not provide an opinion regarding County policies or procedures related to this query.

A detailed explanation of all agenda items is available at <u>http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/meetings.htm</u>.

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