



*Honesty - Integrity - Character*

**Palm Beach County  
Commission on Ethics**

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# News Release

For immediate release:  
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May 2, 2025  
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## Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on May 1, 2025

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following action at its monthly public meeting held on May 1, 2025.

The COE approved two advisory opinions. The full opinions will be available on the COE's website within seven days at: <https://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/coepub/>.

**RQO 25-005:** An official asked if the Code of Ethics (Code) would prohibit his complimentary attendance at non-profit's fundraising event honoring his government position, where a vendor of the governmental agency he serves was hosting the event.

**The COE opined as follows:** The Code prohibits public officials from accepting a gift of over \$100 from a vendor of the County, unless an exception applies. Here, one of the exceptions applies. Because the event is related to County business, the event is sponsored by a non-profit organization, and the ticket was given by a representative of the non-profit who is neither a lobbyist nor the principal of a lobby, then the acceptance of the ticket is not prohibited and would not be considered a gift.

**RQO 25-006:** An elected official asked if the Code prohibits him from participating in discussions or voting on matters before his City Commission when the matters involve a major development project that will be located in the close proximity of his outside employer.

**The COE opined as follows:** The elected official is not prohibited from participating in discussions or voting on these matters because the size of the class affected by this project is large enough to remove any potential conflict of interest as defined by the Code and any potential future benefit is considered remote and speculative.

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

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