



Honesty - Integrity - Character

**Palm Beach County
Commission on Ethics**

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News Release

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The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Marks 15 Years of Promoting Integrity in Public Service

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) proudly celebrates 15 years of promoting integrity, transparency, and accountability in public service. Since its inception, the COE has provided oversight, accountability, and support to over 10,000 elected officials, public employees, and advisory board members within Palm Beach County.

The COE was established in 2010 following a grand jury recommendation, due to significant ethical concerns in the county. The primary role of the COE is to maintain public trust and ensure ethical governance across the county. Palm Beach County's collaborative ethics movement includes the COE, the Office of the Inspector General, and the Office of State Attorney, all working towards promoting local government integrity, transparency, and accountability.

The Commission's mission goes beyond high-profile cases. It involves year-round engagement with county government, the 39 municipalities, public entities, civic organizations, and community groups. COE staff participate in speaking engagements with local organizations, including Kiwanis Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Junior Achievement, the Black Chamber of Commerce, and the Hispanic Chambers of Commerce and also collaborate on ethics education initiatives with Florida Atlantic University.

At the heart of the COE's work are its core values—honesty, integrity, and character—which guide its commitment to ethical leadership throughout the community.

“Over the past 15 years, the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics has demonstrated that knowledge is essential to ethical leadership,” said Christie Kelley, Executive Director of the COE. “Through ongoing education and training, we aim to prevent misconduct and foster a culture

where ethics is recognized and valued across all areas of local government.”

The COE encourages those under its jurisdiction to follow the motto Ask First, Act Later by seeking guidance before taking action that may raise ethical concerns. To date, the COE has published more than 550 advisory opinions, providing clear and timely advice on ethical matters.

To learn more about the COE, including advisory opinions, complaint procedures, and gift disclosure forms, or to schedule a COE speaker, please visit: www.PalmBeachCountyEthics.com.

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