Honesty - Integrity - Character

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News Release

For immediate release: November 6, 2026
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Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on November 5, 2026

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following action at its monthly public meeting held on November 5, 2026.

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 26-020: A Lake Worth Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) board member asked if a conflict of interest would arise under the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics (Code) if a developer who intends to hire the board member's architectural firm to provide services for proposed development has a matter come before the CRA board.

COE ANSWER: Based on the facts presented, because the board member's firm was expected to be hired if the sale proceeded, the potential financial benefit to the board member's firm was not remote and speculative. Accordingly, the board member is prohibited from using his official position in connection with the project and must publicly disclose the conflict, refrain from participating in discussions or voting, and file a state voting conflict Form 8B. If the property is sold but the firm is not hired for the project, the potential for a special financial benefit would no longer exist, and the board member would no longer be required to abstain from discussions or voting on related matters.

RQO 26-021: A County employee asked if the Code prohibits him from (1) selling or licensing to the County, or allowing the County to use free of charge, a software platform he created outside of his County employment; (2) accepting a County position to manage that platform while retaining ownership of it; or (3) selling or licensing the platform to other governmental entities.

COE ANSWER: Generally, the Code prohibits the employee and his outside business from entering into a contract or transaction, directly or indirectly, with the County, unless an exception applies. Because no exception appears to apply here, he may not sell or license the platform to the County. Allowing the County to use it for free would likely still constitute a prohibited transaction and could also result in a special financial benefit to the employee or his outside business. However, the Code does not prohibit him from selling or licensing the platform to other governmental entities, provided he follows the guidance in this opinion.

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

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