

## PROPOSED

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS; AMENDING SECTION 1-19 OF THE BROWARD COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES ("CODE") TO CLARIFY THE SCOPE OF, AND OTHERWISE MODIFY, SECTION 1-19(C)(5) OF THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Tim Ryan)

WHEREAS, the Florida Code of Ethics sets standards of conduct for public officers and employees, including County Commissioners;

WHEREAS, Section 112.326, Florida Statutes, empowers county commissions to impose more stringent ethical standards than are provided under the Florida Code of Ethics;

WHEREAS, the County's Code of Ethics for Elected Officials ("County Ethics Code") imposes numerous more stringent ethical standards, including restrictions on and disclosure requirements in connection with the solicitation of charitable contributions; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners ("Board") finds that these restrictions and disclosure requirements relating to solicitation of charitable contributions are unclear, and that modifying them as provided below would strengthen the County Ethics Code including by clearly alerting those charged with compliance therewith to the Code's requirements and proscriptions,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Coding: Words in ~~struck-through~~ type are deletions from existing text. Words in underscored type are additions.

1 Section 1. Section 1-19 (c)(5)(a) of the Broward County Code of Ordinances is  
2 hereby repealed and replaced in its entirety to read as follows:

3 **Sec. 1-19. Code of ethics for elected officials.**

4 ...

5 (c) *Standards of Conduct.* In addition to the provisions of Chapter 112, Part III,  
6 Florida Statutes, Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees; Chapters 838 and  
7 839, Florida Statutes; Title 18, Chapter 63 of the United States Code; and Chapter 26,  
8 Article V of the Broward County Code of Ordinances, Section 26-67 et seq., the following  
9 Standards of Conduct shall apply to each Elected Official.

10 (1) *Acceptance of Gifts.*

11 ...

12 (5) *Solicitation and Receipt of Contributions.*

13 [Underlining omitted]

14 a. Charitable Contribution Solicitation.

15 1. The solicitation of funds, goods, or services by an Elected  
16 Official for a nonprofit charitable organization, as defined  
17 under the Internal Revenue Code, or for residents in need (as  
18 determined by the Elected Official) (collectively, “charitable  
19 solicitation”), is permissible under this Code so long as there  
20 is no quid pro quo or other special consideration, including  
21 any direct or indirect exchange of benefits between the parties  
22 to the solicitation. Social media postings, newsletters, or  
23 statements made at a publicly noticed governmental meeting  
24 that merely reference or promote a charitable cause or event

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1 are not considered charitable solicitation under this Code,  
2 provided the Elected Official does not expressly request that  
3 specific, identifiable individuals or entities donate to the cause  
4 or event and further provided that, with regard to social media  
5 postings and newsletters, the social media page or newsletter  
6 does not have as its primary purpose the posting or  
7 advertising of charitable causes or events.

8 2. An Elected Official may use staff directly assigned to the  
9 Elected Official and may use his or her governmental entity's  
10 e-mail and telephone systems and other resources that do not  
11 require the affirmative expenditure of public funds  
12 (collectively, "in-kind resources") when engaging in charitable  
13 solicitation, provided the use of such resources does not  
14 violate any other provision of applicable law. Approval by the  
15 Elected Official's governmental entity is required only where  
16 the charitable solicitation involves the affirmative expenditure  
17 of public funds through the use of resources other than in-kind  
18 resources; however, an Elected Official may choose to seek  
19 formal approval of the charitable solicitation from his or her  
20 governmental entity even where only direct staff and in-kind  
21 resources are used in the charitable solicitation.

22 3. Except where the charitable solicitation is formally approved  
23 by the Elected Official's governmental entity:  
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- a. Neither the Elected Official nor his or her direct staff may represent to anyone that the charitable solicitation is on behalf of the governmental entity, or otherwise imply that the charitable solicitation has been approved or is endorsed by the Elected Official’s governmental entity;
- b. An Elected Official may not use any County staff or resources to solicit funds, goods, or services from private individuals or for-profit entities unless the Elected Official has first obtained written confirmation from the governmental entity’s legal counsel that the charitable solicitation comports to applicable law; and
- c. To promote full and complete transparency, the Elected Official must disclose, on a form created by the Office of the County Attorney, the name of the intended direct recipient(s) of the proceeds of the charitable solicitation, the cause or event for which the funds or donations were solicited, if any, and the name of any individual or entity that requested that the Elected Official engage in the charitable solicitation. The form must be filed for public inspection within fifteen (15) days after the Elected Official (or his or her staff, as applicable) engages in charitable solicitation.

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1                   4.     Salary received by an Elected Official from a nonprofit  
2                             charitable organization employing the Elected Official is not  
3                             considered a quid pro quo or other special consideration for  
4                             purposes of paragraph 1 above.  Additionally, the disclosure  
5                             requirement contained in paragraph 3 above does not apply  
6                             to Officials who are employed by a nonprofit charitable  
7                             organization when soliciting charitable contributions on behalf  
8                             of that organization.

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10           Section 2.   Severability.

11           If any portion of this Ordinance is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid  
12           portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this  
13           Ordinance.  If any court determines that this Ordinance, in whole or in part, cannot be  
14           legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such  
15           determination will not affect the applicability of this Ordinance to any other individual,  
16           group, entity, property, or circumstance.

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18           Section 3.   Inclusion in the Broward County Code of Ordinances.

19           It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners that the provisions of this  
20           Ordinance become part of the Broward County Code of Ordinances as of the effective  
21           date.  The sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or relettered and the word  
22           "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or such other appropriate word or  
23           phrase to the extent necessary in order to accomplish such intention.

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Section 4. Effective Date.

This Ordinance is effective as of the date provided by law.

**PROPOSED**

ENACTED

FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EFFECTIVE

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:  
Andrew J. Meyers, County Attorney

By /s/ Rocio Blanco Garcia 05/06/19  
Rocio Blanco Garcia (date)  
Assistant County Attorney

RBG/mm  
Code of Ethics for Elected Officials Ordinance  
05/06/19  
#99260-0010

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