



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 7, 2017

CONTACT: Chairman, Karl Dickey
Phone: 202-683-8056 chair@lppalmbeach.org

Palm Beach Libertarians call for ending discriminatory worker ID cards for dancers

Boynton Beach, Fla – The [Libertarian Party of Palm Beach County](#) is calling on county commissioners to end the discriminatory requirement of adult entertainment dancers having to register with the county. In 2008, the Palm Beach County Commission passed [an ordinance](#) requiring adult dancers to acquire a worker identification card at a \$75 fee and the ordinance requires their employers to photocopy and produce on demand a record of the cards.

This week, the Libertarian Party of Palm Beach County reached out to the county commission to see how effective the program has been. We heard back from Stephanie Sejnoha, Director of the county's Public Safety Department who stated, “The Public Safety Department considers the adult entertainment identification card program to be effective. We continually have performers come to our department to show proof that they are at least 18 years old to obtain a work identification card. We send out reminders to the establishments annually of our ordinance requirements. Establishments are aware and advise their performers of the requirement.”

Adult entertainment dancers seems to be outside the purview of the Palm Beach County Public Safety Department. Their purpose is to “*coordinate and dispatch emergency services; Police, Fire and EMS, in response to fire, flood and natural disasters. The Public Safety Department provides security for county residents and visitors from crime and terrorism, rendering aid in the event of accident or attack.*”

Recently, a county employee was arrested for pocketing money [given to her by the adult dancers to pay for their identification card](#) and she fraudulently altered county records. Instead of reviewing how effective the program has been, the county is taking up the idea of no longer accepting cash for the worker ID cards.

Libertarians contend the program is discriminatory. Karl Dickey, Chair of the Libertarian Party of Palm Beach County said today, “While managers of food establishments are required to hold certificates of competency, there are no worker ID cards for the food service workers below them. Why have adult

dancers been singled out? Someone handling my food is far more important to me than whether an adult worker has been forced to pay \$75 to the county government to earn a living. The selective taxing of some workers over others is unconscionable as Palm Beach citizens are taxed too much as it is just to exercise their right to work. Either you require ID cards from all those employed in the county, or you end discriminatory policies such as the adult entertainment worker ID cards.”

The original ordinance was ruled unconstitutional in 2000 but that decision was reversed by the Fourth District of Appeal. The challenge was that information such as birth certificate, social security card, home address, driver's license, etc. was required as part of the application which became publicly available.

[From Reason.com Elizabeth Nolan Brown:](#)

“Demanding strippers be licensed in the first place is a problem, though. There's no legitimate public-safety or consumer-protection element to the requirement—strip club patrons don't care if the woman wriggling on their laps is properly permitted. Government officials have portrayed the measure as a means to stop human trafficking and the exploitation of minors, but that's ludicrous; anyone willing to force someone else into sex or labor and circumvent much more serious rules with regard to age limits isn't going to suddenly take pause over an occupational licensing rule they'll have to skirt. The only ones truly affected are sex workers and adult-business owners. Not only does the regulation drive up their costs (and close off legal dancing to those just passing through town), it gives Palm Beach regulators a database of anyone who's ever taken their clothes off for money locally—leaving these records open to FOIA requests or hackers—and gives cops a pretense to check clubs at random to make sure there aren't any unlicensed dancers. Those found to be dancing without a license can be arrested on a misdemeanor criminal charge.”

The Libertarian Party of Palm Beach County believes that employment and compensation agreements between private employers and employees are outside the scope of government, and these contracts should not be encumbered by government-mandated benefits or social engineering. The Party supports the right of private employers and employees to choose whether or not to bargain with each other through a labor union. Bargaining should be free of government interference, such as compulsory arbitration or imposing an obligation to bargain.

