

**OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE  
PALM BEACH COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**JULY 9, 2020**

**THURSDAY  
1:31 P.M.**

**WEBEX TELECONFERENCE  
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS:**

Peter L. Cruise, Chair  
Michael S. Kridel, Vice Chair  
Carol E.A. DeGraffenreidt – Absent  
Michael H. Kugler  
Rodney G. Romano

**STAFF:**

Mark E. Bannon, Commission on Ethics (COE) Executive Director  
Mark A. Higgs, COE Investigator  
Abigail Irizarry, COE Investigator I  
Christie E. Kelley, Esq., COE General Counsel  
Gina A. Levesque, COE Intake and Compliance Manager

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:**

Marisa Valentin, Deputy Clerk, Clerk & Comptroller's Office

**III. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS – None**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 7, 2020**

**MOTION to approve the May 7, 2020 minutes. Motion by Rodney Romano, seconded by Michael Kugler, and carried 4-0. Carol DeGraffenreidt absent.**

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 4, 2020**

**MOTION to approve the June 4, 2020 minutes. Motion by Michael Kridel, seconded by Rodney Romano, and carried 4-0. Carol DeGraffenreidt absent.**

**VI. PUBLICATION OF ORDER RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION for C19-006**

Vice Chair Kridel read the following Public Report Stipulating to Probable Cause:

Christie E. Kelley, General Counsel of the Palm Beach County Commissioner on Ethics, filed the above referenced complaint on September 23, 2019, alleging Respondent, David DeMarois, the former vice mayor of the town of Loxahatchee Groves, violated §2-443(b), *Corrupt misuse of official position*, by threatening and asserting pressure on a town employee in an attempt to have the employee hire Respondent's preferred applicant.

Pursuant to §2-258(a) of the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) Ordinance, the COE is empowered to enforce the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics. On July 9, 2020, Respondent stipulated to probable cause and requested to proceed to a final hearing.

Therefore it is:

**ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that probable cause exists and the complaint against Respondent, David DeMarois, will be set for a final hearing within 120 days to be coordinated between the parties.

**DONE AND ORDERED** by the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics in public session on July 9, 2020.

By: Peter L. Cruise, Chair

(CLERK'S NOTE: The clerk added the language as printed in the Public Report Stipulating to Probable Cause.)

**VII. PROCESSED ADVISORY OPINIONS**

**VII.a. Request for Opinion (RQO) 20-004**

**VII.b. RQO 20-005**

**VII.c. RQO 20-006**

**MOTION to approve the advisory opinions. Motion by Michael Kridel, seconded by Rodney Romano, and carried 4-0. Carol DeGraffenreidt absent.**

**VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

**VIII.a**

**DISCUSSED:** Congratulations.

COE Executive Director Mark Bannon congratulated staff for being able to perform all their job duties remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**IX. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

**IX.a**

**DISCUSSED:** Congratulations.

Commissioner Romano congratulated his son, Zack, for scoring 151 on his Law School Admission Tests, and his daughter for being accepted into nursing school.

**IX.b**

**DISCUSSED:** Congratulations.

Chair Cruise congratulated COE General Counsel Christie Kelley, Mr. Bannon, and the investigative staff for their great work on the processed advisory opinions.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**At 1:41 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.**

APPROVED:

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Chair/Vice Chair