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

> > Executive Director Mark E. Bannon

General Counsel Christie E. Kelley

Intake & Compliance Manager Gina A. Levesque

> Investigator Abigail Irizarry

Investigator Mark A. Higgs

News Release

For immediate release: Contact: March 6, 2020 Mark E. Bannon, Executive Director (561) 355-1937

Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on March 5, 2020.

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following actions at its monthly public meeting held on March 5, 2020.

Michael H. Kugler and Carol E. A. DeGraffenreidt were sworn in as COE Commissioners by Judge Sarah Shullman. Commissioner Kugler was appointed by the F. Malcolm Cunningham, Sr. Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Association of Palm Beach County, and the Palm Beach County Bar Association. Commissioner DeGraffenreidt was appointed by the Palm Beach County Association of Chiefs of Police.

Commissioner Peter L. Cruise was elected COE Chair, and Commissioner Michael S. Kridel was elected COE Vice Chair.

Four complaints were heard in executive session. The complete files are published on the COE website at: <u>http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/complaints.htm</u>.

<u>C19-002</u>: After considering the investigative report, probable cause recommendation, and statement of the COE advocate and respondent, the COE found that probable cause did not exist to believe that a violation of the code occurred and dismissed the complaint.

<u>C19-010</u>: After considering the investigative report, probable cause recommendation, and statement of the COE advocate and respondent, the COE found that probable cause existed and issued a letter of instruction to conclude the matter.

<u>C19-011</u>: After considering the investigative report, probable cause recommendation, and statement of the COE advocate and respondent, the COE found that probable cause existed, ordered restitution to be paid, and issued a letter of instruction to conclude the matter.

<u>C19-012</u>: After considering the investigative report, probable cause recommendation, and statement of the COE advocate and respondent, the COE found that probable cause existed and issued a letter of instruction to conclude the matter.

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

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