



# *Agenda*

June 5, 2025 – 1:30 p.m.  
Governmental Center,  
301 North Olive Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Commissioners Chambers

Meeting will begin at 1:30pm  
Executive Session will begin at 1:40pm  
Regular Agenda will resume immediately  
following the Executive Session

## **Palm Beach County**

### **Commission on Ethics**

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### **Commissioners**

Michael S. Kridel

Peter L. Cruise

Michael H. Kugler

Rodney G. Romano

Kristin A. Vara-Garcia

### **Executive Director**

Christie Kelley

### **General Counsel**

Rhonda Giger

### **Intake & Compliance Manager**

Gina A. Levesque

### **Education & Communications Manager**

S. Lizabeth Martin

### **Investigator**

Mark A. Higgs

### **Investigator**

Abigail Irizarry

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Introductory Remarks
- V. Approval of Minutes from April 3, 2025 (COE 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Interviews)
- VI. Approval of Minutes from May 1, 2025
- VII. Executive Session Re: C25-001
- VIII. Processed Advisory Opinions (Consent Agenda)
  - a.
- IX. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda
  - a.
- X. Executive Director Comments
- XI. Commission Comments
- XII. Public Comments
- XIII. Adjournment

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by this Commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, (s)he will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, (s)he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
OF THE  
PALM BEACH COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS (COE)  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**COE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY INTERVIEWS**

**APRIL 3, 2025**

**THURSDAY  
1:30 P.M.**

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

**MEMBERS:**

Michael S. Kridel, Chair  
Peter L. Cruise, Vice Chair  
Michael H. Kugler  
Rodney G. Romano  
Kristin A. Vara-Garcia

**COMMISSION ON ETHICS STAFF PRESENT:**

S. Lizabeth Martin, COE Communication and Education Manager

**CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE STAFF PRESENT:**

Danielle Freeman, Deputy Clerk

**I. Chair and Vice Chair Q&A**

The interviews began at 12:30 p.m.

S. Lizabeth Martin, COE Communication and Education Manager, interviewed Chair Kridel and Vice Chair Cruise for the Commission on Ethics 15<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary. They responded to a series of questions from Ms. Martin about how the COE had evolved over the years and its anticipated future direction.

**II. Break for COE Meeting in BCC Chambers**

**At 12:41 p.m., the interviews were paused for the COE meeting.**

**RECONVENE**

**At 1:59 p.m., the interviews resumed.**

**III. All Commissioners Q&A**

(CLERK'S NOTE: Gina Levesque, COE Intake and Compliance Manager, joined the meeting.)

Ms. Martin continued the interviews with Chair Kridel, Vice Chair Cruise, Commissioner Kugler, Commissioner Romano, and Commissioner Vara-Garcia.

Ms. Martin called for member self-introductions.

The commissioners shared their perspectives on how the COE contributed to the community's well-being, how they have increased awareness about the COE, and the biggest ethical challenges faced by public officials and County employees.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

The interviews were concluded at 2:18 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Chair/Vice Chair

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

**MAY 1, 2025**

**THURSDAY  
1:30 P.M.**

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

**MEMBERS:**

Michael S. Kridel, Chair  
Peter L. Cruise, Vice Chair  
Michael H. Kugler  
Rodney G. Romano  
Kristin A. Vara-Garcia

**COMMISSION ON ETHICS STAFF PRESENT:**

Rhonda Giger, General Counsel  
Mark Higgs, COE Investigator II  
Abigail Irizarry, COE Investigator II  
Christie E. Kelley, COE Director III  
Gina A. Levesque, COE Intake and Compliance Manager  
S. Lizabeth Martin, COE Communication and Education Manager

**CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE STAFF PRESENT:**

Chayanne Munet, Deputy Clerk

**I. Call to Order**

The vice chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Vara-Garcia led the pledge of allegiance.

**III. Roll Call**

Present: Vice Chair Cruise, Commissioner Romano, and Commissioner Vara-Garcia

Absent: Chair Kridel and Commissioner Kugler

**IV. Introductory Remarks**

No comments were made.

**V. Approval of Minutes from April 3, 2025**

**MOTION to approve the minutes. Motion by Commissioner Romano, seconded by Commissioner Vara-Garcia, and carried 3-0.**

**VI. Processed Advisory Opinions (Consent Agenda)**

**a. RQO 25-005**

**b. RQO 25-006**

**MOTION to approve the consent agenda. Motion by Commissioner Vara-Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Romano, and carried 3-0.**

**VII. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda**

**VIII. Executive Director Comments**

Ms. Kelly stated that staff had attended outreach events for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and had also been present at the Junior Achievement Event at Jeaga Middle School in April.

Ms. Kelly reported that staff had attended various municipal meetings.

Ms. Kelly spoke about the 15th anniversary of the COE and stated that a newsletter would be sent out to all agencies. She also announced that a special feature would be broadcast on Channel 20.

Ms. Kelly stated that Palm Tran would be displaying a wrap on their buses in honor of the COE's 15th anniversary.

**IX. Commission Comments**

Commissioner Romano thanked League of Cities Executive Director Richard Radcliffe for the opportunity to attend the monthly meeting of the Palm Beach County League of Cities.

**X. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**XI. Adjournment**

At 1:34 p.m., the vice chair declared the meeting adjourned.