

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

OCTOBER 1, 2015

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

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS
GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS:

Michael S. Kridel, Chair
Clevis Headley, Vice Chair
Michael F. Loffredo
Judy M. Pierman
Sarah L. Shullman

STAFF:

Mark E. Bannon, Commission on Ethics (COE) Senior Investigator
Anthony C. Bennett, COE Investigator
Steven P. Cullen, COE Executive Director
Christie Kelley, COE Staff Counsel
Gina A. Levesque, COE Intake Manager

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Barbara Strickland, Deputy Clerk, Clerk & Comptroller's Office

III. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Commission on Ethics (COE) Chair Michael Kridel requested that all mobile devices be silenced.

Chair Kridel announced that there would be a recess at 1:45 p.m. for the executive session. He stated that COE Executive Director Steven Cullen's departure would be discussed later.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

MOTION to approve the September 3, 2015, minutes. Motion by Judy Pierman, seconded by Clevis Headley, and carried 5-0.

V. PROCESSED ADVISORY OPINIONS (CONSENT AGENDA)

V.a. RQO 15-042

V.b. RQO 15-043

MOTION to accept the advisory opinions as published. Motion by Clevis Headley, seconded by Judy Pierman, and carried 5-0.

VI. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – None

RECESS

At 1:33 p.m., the chair declared the meeting recessed for an executive session.

RECONVENE

At 2:13 p.m., the meeting reconvened with Chair Kridel, Vice Chair Headley, and Commissioners Loffredo, Pierman, and Shullman present.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII.a. C15-007

Vice Chair Headley read the following Public Report Finding No Probable Cause and Order of Dismissal as discussed during the executive session:

Complainant, Joel Rutsky, filed the above-referenced complaint on March 23, 2015, alleging that Respondent, Pam Triolo, Mayor of the City of Lake Worth, violated Section 2-443(a) of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics.

VII.a. – CONTINUED

Pursuant to Section 2-258(a) of the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Ordinance, the Commission on Ethics is empowered to enforce the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics. On October 1, 2015, the Commission conducted a hearing and reviewed the Memorandum of Inquiry, Legal Sufficiency Determination, and Report of Investigation. After oral statements by the Advocate and Respondent, the Commission concluded no probable cause exists to believe any violation occurred.

Therefore, it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the complaint against Respondent, Pam Triolo, is hereby DISMISSED.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics in public session on October 1, 2015.

By: Michael S. Kridel, Chair

(CLERK'S NOTE: The clerk added the language as printed in the Public Report Finding No Probable Cause and Order of Dismissal.)

VII.b. C-15-008

Vice Chair Headley read the following Public Report Finding No Probable Cause and Order of Dismissal as discussed during the executive session.

Complainant, Joel Rutsky, filed the above-referenced complaint on March 23, 2015, alleging that Respondent, Michael Bornstein, City Manager of the City of Lake Worth, violated Section 2-443(b) of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics.

VII.b. – CONTINUED

Pursuant to Section 2-258(a) of the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Ordinance, the Commission on Ethics is empowered to enforce the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics. On October 1, 2015, the Commission conducted a hearing and reviewed the Memorandum of Inquiry, Legal Sufficiency Determination, and Report of Investigation. After oral statements by the Advocate and Respondent, the Commission concluded no probable cause exists to believe any violation occurred.

Therefore, it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the complaint against Respondent, Michael Bornstein, is hereby **DISMISSED**.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics in public session on October 1, 2015.

By: Michael S. Kridel, Chair

(CLERK'S NOTE: The clerk added the language as printed in the Public Report Finding No Probable Cause and Order of Dismissal.)

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

VIII.a.

DISCUSSED: Expression of Thanks.

Steven P. Cullen, COE Executive Director, thanked all the other commissioners for their service during the past two-and-a-half years that he served as Executive Director. He said that the COE made rule, procedure, and ordinance changes, training revisions; and it litigated high-profile cases. He added that he looked forward to being of any appropriate assistance in the future.

IX. COMMISSION COMMENTS

IX.a.

DISCUSSED: Expression of Thanks.

Commissioner Michael Loffredo stated that Mr. Cullen was a fine example to follow in the COE's ethical journey. He said he hoped that Mr. Cullen would stay in touch.

IX.b.

DISCUSSED: Good Wishes.

Commissioner Headley said that Mr. Cullen was always available to answer questions and served as a fine example of professionalism representing the highest standards of integrity. He said he wished him well in his future endeavors.

IX.c.

DISCUSSED: Good Luck.

Commissioner Pierman stated that in her five months of service, her journey under the tutelage of Mr. Cullen was an interesting experience. She said that she wanted Mr. Cullen to accept her Ohio buckeye for luck in his next venture.

IX.d.

DISCUSSED: Public Trust.

Commissioner Sarah Shullman said that she received intensive guidance and training in a brief period, and that she appreciated Mr. Cullen's professionalism and community accomplishments. She said his good example led her to become a volunteer advocate, and she thanked him for fostering public trust in government.

COMMISSION COMMENTS – CONTINUED

IX.e.

DISCUSSED: Parting Gift.

Chair Kridel said that Mr. Cullen was thoroughly responsive in his executive director role, and that he demonstrated character and integrity. He said that he wished to present a parting gift from all the commissioners.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

X.a.

DISCUSSED: Cullen Farewell.

Richard Radcliffe, Palm Beach County League of Cities Executive Director, said that Mr. Cullen's unbiased approach was refreshing, and that he would be missed.

X.b.

DISCUSSED: Incoming Director.

Mark Bannon, COE Senior Investigator, said that he served for nearly five years on the COE staff under two executive directors. During that time, he said, the entire training program was revamped to be more user-friendly and open to the public, which proved a good fit for the COE. He added that as the incoming interim director, he was pleased to have worked with both Alan Johnson and Mr. Cullen, and that he would continue with their missions.

Chair Kridel announced that Mr. Bannon would assume the role of Interim Executive Director.

Gina Levesque, COE Intake Manager, said that Mr. Cullen's work enabled a smooth transition, and that she appreciated all that he accomplished for the COE staff.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

At 2:27 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, cursive letters, positioned above a horizontal line.

Chair/Vice Chair