

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

**JUNE 4, 2020**

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

**VIA WEBEX TELECONFERENCE  
GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS:**

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

**STAFF:**

Mark E. Bannon, Commission on Ethics (COE) Executive Director  
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**

Chair Peter Cruise expressed gratitude for the people who diligently worked on revising the Lobbyist Registration, Ethics Code, and Commission on Ethics ordinances.

#### **IV. REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO COMMISSION ON ETHICS ORDINANCE**

Vice Chair Michael Kridel said that:

- twice yearly the COE convenes as a type of oversight committee for the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).
- the OIG's main function was auditing and accounting, and the basis of that function was forensic.
- without an extensive background in forensic accounting, commission members would be unable to understand the processes and outcomes of the OIG.

Commission on Ethics Executive Director Mark Bannon requested that the revised verbiage for the subsection pertaining to the qualifications of the Palm Beach chapter of the Florida Institute of CPAs' appointee be recorded (Section 2-255, subsection 4).

Vice Chair Kridel said that the language should read as follows; "The President of the Palm Beach chapter of the Florida Institute of CPAs shall be requested to appoint a single member who possesses at least five (5) years of experience as a certified public account (CPA) with forensic and/or government accounting or government auditing experience."

Commissioner Kugler requested that language be added to the ordinance outlining the process of penalty determination.

Mr. Bannon said that Section 2-260.1(6)(i), (Order Imposing Penalty), would include language stating that the commission had within 90 days in which to hold a hearing on imposing penalties and rendering an order, unless a good cause extension was granted by the Chair.

#### **V. REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO CODE OF ETHICS ORDINANCE**

Mr. Bannon provided a brief overview of the proposed changes to the Code of Ethics Ordinance as outlined in the item backup and no further changes were suggested.

**VI. REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOBBYIST REGISTRATION ORDINANCE**

Mr. Bannon provided a brief overview of the proposed changes to the Lobbyist Registration Ordinance as outlined in the item backup and no further changes were suggested.

**VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

**VII.a.**

**DISCUSSED:** Recognition.

Mr. Bannon congratulated investigator Mark Higgs for earning his Certified Fraud Examiner credentials.

**VIII. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

**VIII.a.**

**DISCUSSED:** Recognition.

Vice Chair Kridel congratulated investigator Mark Higgs for earning his Certified Fraud Examiner credentials.

**VIII.b.**

**DISCUSSED:** Recognition.

Commissioner Kugler congratulated investigator Mark Higgs for earning his Certified Fraud Examiner credentials.

**VII.c.**

**DISCUSSED:** Recognition.

Commissioner Romano congratulated investigator Mark Higgs for earning his Certified Fraud Examiner credentials.

**VII.d.**

**DISCUSSED:** Recognition.

Commissioner DeGraffenreidt congratulated investigator Mark Higgs for earning his Certified Fraud Examiner credentials.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**At 2:04 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.**

APPROVED:

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Chair/Vice Chair