

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

AUGUST 6, 2020

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

**VIA WEBEX TELECONFERENCE
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

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

Chair Peter Cruise wished COE Executive Director Mark Bannon a fast recovery.

IV. Approval of Minutes from July 9, 2020

MOTION to approve the July 9, 2020 minutes. Motion by Michael Kugler, seconded by Carol DeGraffenreidt, and carried 3-0. Michael Kridel and Rodney Romano absent.

V. Processed Advisory Opinions (Consent Agenda)

V.a RQO 20-007

V.b RQO 20-008

V.c RQO 20-009

MOTION to approve the consent agenda. Motion by Michael Kugler, seconded by Carol DeGraffenreidt, and carried 3-0. Michael Kridel and Rodney Romano absent.

VI. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda – None

(CLERK'S NOTE: Vice Chair Kridel joined the meeting.)

VII. SECOND REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO COMMISSION ON ETHICS ORDINANCE

COE General Council Christie Kelley said that per commission request on June 4, 2020, 2 changes were made to the Commission on Ethics Ordinance, and read the following into the record:

(CLERK'S NOTE: Ms. Kelley inadvertently called section 2-225.)

2-255(a)(4), 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 accountant (CPA) with forensic auditing and/or government accounting or government auditing audit experience.

2-260.1(6)(h), (Order Imposing Penalty). If the hearing officer finds, by clear and convincing evidence, based upon competent substantial evidence in the record, that a violation has been committed, the commission on ethics shall hold a hearing to determine an appropriate penalty and render a final order imposing the appropriate penalty as provided in the ordinance being enforced and disposing of said compliant.

The hearing provided for in this subsection shall be held within ninety (90) days of the issuance of the public report by the hearing officer, unless extended by the commission on ethics for good cause based on the request of a party or on its own initiative.

MOTION to approve the Commission on Ethics Ordinance. Motion by Michael Kridel, seconded by Michael Kugler, and carried 4-0. Rodney Romano absent.

VIII. SECOND REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO CODE OF ETHICS ORDINANCE – None

MOTION to approve the Code of Ethics Ordinance. Motion by Michael Kugler, seconded by Michael Kridel, and carried 4-0. Rodney Romano absent.

IX. SECOND REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOBBYIST REGISTRATION ORDINANCE – None

MOTION to approve the Lobbyist Registration Ordinance. Motion by Carol DeGraffenreidt, seconded by Michael Kugler, and carried 4-0. Rodney Romano absent.

X. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

X.a

DISCUSSED: Recognition.

Ms. Kelley congratulated investigator Abigail Irizarry for earning her Certified Fraud Examiner credentials.

XI. COMMISSION COMMENTS

XI.a. DISCUSSED: Absences.

Commissioner DeGraffenreidt said that she had missed the previous meetings due to illness, but had recovered and was happy to return to the commission.

XI.b. DISCUSSED: Judicial Appointments.

Commissioner Kugler congratulated State prosecutors John Parnofiello and Laura Laurie on their appointments as judges to the county and circuit court benches, respectively.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(CLERK'S NOTE: Commissioner Romano joined the meeting.)

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

APPROVED:

Chair/Vice Chair