

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

JULY 11, 2024

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

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

MEMBERS:

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

COMMISSION ON ETHICS STAFF PRESENT:

Rhonda Giger, General Counsel
Abigail Irizarry, COE Investigator II
Christie E. Kelley, COE Director III
Gina A. Levesque, COE Intake and Compliance Manager

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

No clerk was present.

I. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 1:51 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The members led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Ms. Levesque called the roll.

Present: Chair Kristin A. Vara-Garcia, Vice Chair Michael S. Kridel, Commissioner Peter L. Cruise, and Commissioner Rodney G. Romano

Absent: Commissioner Michael H. Kugler

IV. Introductory Remarks

No introductory remarks were made.

V. Approval of Minutes from June 6, 2024

MOTION to approve the June 6, 2024, minutes. Motion by Commissioner Romano, seconded by Commissioner Cruise, and carried 4-0.

VI. Processed Advisory Opinions (Consent Agenda)

a. RQO 24-005

MOTION to approve the consent agenda. Motion by Commissioner Cruise, seconded by Commissioner Romano, and carried 4-0.

VIII. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

No items were pulled from the consent agenda.

IX. Executive Director Comments

1.

Ms. Kelley provided an update on the in-person ethics trainings that had been conducted at various municipalities.

2.

Ms. Kelley stated that staff had participated in the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Leadership and Ethics Summer Camp.

3.

Ms. Kelley reported that staff had attended various municipal meetings within the county. In addition, staff had completed ethics training policy compliance reviews at various

municipalities and provided recommendations or clarity regarding the training cycles and deadlines for employees and officials.

X. Commission Comments

1.

Commissioner Cruise thanked COE Education and Communications Manager S.Lizabeth Martin for her assistance at the FAU Leadership and Ethics Summer Camp.

2.

Commissioner Cruise reported the passing of long-time public servant Merrett R. Stierheim and acknowledged his many accomplishments.

XI. Public Comments

No comments were made.

XII. Adjournment

At 1:54 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:


Chair/Vice Chair