

**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.

APPROVED:



Chair/Vice Chair