

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

JULY 10, 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. Lizbeth Martin, Education and Communications Manager

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

Danielle Freeman, Deputy Clerk
Karla Perez, Board Meetings Specialist

I. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The commissioners recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Present: Chair Kridel, Commissioner Kugler, Commissioner Romano, and
Commissioner Vara-Garcia

Absent: Vice Chair Cruise

IV. Introductory Remarks

No comments were made.

V. Approval of Minutes from June 5, 2025

MOTION to approve the minutes. Motion by Commissioner Kugler, seconded by Commissioner Vara-Garcia, and carried 4-0.

VI. Executive Sessions

RECESS

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

RECONVENE

At 2:11 p.m., the meeting reconvened with Chair Kridel, Commissioner Kugler, Commissioner Romano, and Commissioner Vara-Garcia present.

a. C24-013

Commissioner Kugler read the following final order into the record:

In re: Edward Hocevar

C24-013

Complaint was filed in the above-referenced case alleging that Respondent, Edward Hocevar former Mayor for Jupiter Inlet Colony, used his official position in a manner that may have violated the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics.

Pursuant to Section 2-258(a) of the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Ordinance, the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics is empowered to enforce the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics.¹ On July 10, 2025, the Commission conducted a probable cause hearing. After reviewing the Report of Investigation and the Probable Cause Recommendation and considering statements by COE staff, the Commission concluded that there was insufficient evidence to support a finding of probable cause that Respondent, Edward Hocevar, violated a provision of the Code of Ethics.

Therefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the complaint against Respondent, Edward Hocevar, is hereby **DISMISSED**.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics in public session on July 10, 2025.

b. C24-014

A Complaint was filed in the above-referenced case alleging that Respondent, Milton Block former Mayor for Jupiter Inlet Colony, used his official position in a manner that may have violated the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics.

Pursuant to Section 2-258(a) of the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Ordinance, the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics is empowered to enforce the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics. ¹ On July 10, 2025, the Commission conducted a probable cause hearing. After reviewing the Report of Investigation and the Probable Cause Recommendation and considering statements by COE staff and Respondent, the Commission concluded that there was insufficient evidence to support a finding of probable cause that Respondent, Milton Block, violated a provision of the Code of Ethics.

Therefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the complaint against Respondent, Milton Block, is hereby **DISMISSED**.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics in public session on July 10, 2025.

VII. Processed Advisory Opinions (Consent Agenda)

a.

There were no items on the consent agenda.

VIII. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

a.

There were no items pulled from the consent agenda.

IX. Executive Director Comments

Ms. Kelley reported that staff had conducted several training courses with various municipalities in June.

X. Commission Comments

No comments were made


XI. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

XII. Adjournment

At 2:14p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:



Chair/Vice Chair