

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

SEPTEMBER 4, 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

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

Karla Perez, Board Meetings Specialist

I. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Cruise led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Present: Vice Chair Cruise, Chair Kridel, Commissioner Romano, and
Commissioner Vara-Garcia

Absent: Commissioner Kugler

IV. Introductory Remarks

No comments were made.

V. Approval of Minutes from August 7, 2025

MOTION to approve the minutes. Motion by Vice Chair Cruise, seconded by Commissioner Romano, and carried 4-0.

VI. Processed Advisory Opinions (Consent Agenda)

a. RQO 25-008

b. RQO 25-009

MOTION to approve the consent agenda. Motion by Commissioner Vara-Garcia, seconded by Vice Chair Cruise, and carried 4-0.

VII. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

VIII. Executive Director Comments

Ms. Kelley reported the following updates:

In August, staff had completed all the presentations and training required for the municipalities in the special districts.

Ms. Giger would provide ethics training over four consecutive weeks for county employees and officials.

Ms. Martin would be attending several outreach events in September including participating in the Palm Beach County Department Fair.

IX. Commission Comments

Vice Chair Cruise inquired about the replacement of former Executive Director of the Palm Beach County League of Cities, Richard Radcliffe.

Ms. Kelley responded that the information was not available, but it would be forthcoming.

X. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

XI. Adjournment

At 1:33 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, followed by the date "10/9/2025" written in blue ink.