

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

NOVEMBER 6, 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 vice chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The commissioners recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

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

Absent: Chair Kridel

IV. Introductory Remarks

No comments were made.

V. Approval of Minutes from October 9, 2025

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

VI. Processed Advisory Opinions

a. RQO 25-010

b. RQO 25-011

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

VII. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

a.

RECESS

At 1:32 p.m., the chair declared the meeting recessed for executive sessions.

VIII. Executive Sessions

a. C24-018

b. C25-007

c. C25-008

RECONVENE

At 2:20 p.m., the meeting reconvened with Chair Kridel, Vice Chair Cruise, Commissioner Kugler, Commissioner Romano, and Commissioner Vara-Garcia present.

(CLERK'S NOTE: The final orders were read into the record in a different order from what was displayed on the agenda.)

Commissioner Kugler read the following final order into the record:

a. C24-008

In re: Daniel Comerford

C24-008

Complainant, Heidi Siegel, filed the above referenced complaint alleging that Respondent, Daniel Comerford, Former Mayor for Jupiter Inlet Colony, used his elected position for personal gain, in violation of Section 2-443(a), Misuse of public office or employment, or Section 2-443(b), Corrupt misuse of official position, of 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 November 6, 2025, the Commission conducted a probable cause hearing. After reviewing the Report of Investigation and the Probable Cause Recommendation and listening to statements by the Advocate, the Commission concluded that probable cause does not exist because there was no evidence that Respondent took any action that violated the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics.

Therefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the complaint against Respondent, Daniel Comerford, is hereby DISMISSED.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics in public session on November 6, 2025.

b. C25-007

In Re: Marie Rosner

C25-007

Vice Chair Cruise read the following final order into the record:

Complainant, Heidi Siegel, filed the above referenced complaint alleging that Respondent, Marie Rosner, former Commissioner for Jupiter Inlet Colony, used her elected position for personal gain, in violation of Section 2-443(a), Misuse of public office or employment, or Section 2-443(b), Corrupt misuse of official position, of 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 November 6, 2025, the Commission conducted a probable cause hearing. After reviewing the Report of Investigation and the Probable Cause Recommendation and listening to statements by the Advocate, the Commission concluded that probable cause does not exist because there was no evidence that Respondent took any action that violated the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics.

Therefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the complaint against Respondent, Marie Rosner, is hereby DISMISSED.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics in public session on November 6, 2025.

c. C24-018

In re: Barbara King

C24-018

Commissioner Vara-Garcia read the following final order into the record:

The above referenced complaint against Respondent, Barbara King, a Commissioner for the City of South Bay, alleged that Respondent used or attempted to use her position in a manner that may have resulted in a special financial benefit to herself or her outside business in violation of Section 2-443(a) of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics.

Pursuant to Section 2-258(a)¹ of the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Ordinance, the COE is empowered to enforce the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics.

At the probable cause hearing, the COE advocate recommended a finding of probable cause, the issuance of a letter of instruction, and dismissal of the complaint. This recommendation is based on the Respondent's statement that she was unaware she should not use her title in matters related to City business.

Pursuant to Commission on Ethics Ordinance Sec. 2-260.3(b), Dismissal of complaints, the complaint may be dismissed and a letter of instruction issued at this stage of the proceedings if the Commission finds that the violation was inadvertent, unintentional, or insubstantial.

After hearing statements from the COE advocate and the Respondent, the Commission determined that probable cause existed, issued a letter of instruction, and dismissed the case finding that the violation was inadvertent, unintentional, or insubstantial.

Therefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the complaint against Respondent, Barbara King, is hereby DISMISSED and a Letter of Instruction is issued.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics in public session on November 6, 2025.

IX. Executive Director Comments

Ms. Kelley reported the following updates:

1.

Staff conducted several training courses with various municipalities in October.

2.

Staff participated in various outreach events throughout the county.

3.

Inspector General John Carey was thanked for deferring his meeting by thirty minutes to accommodate the COE's executive session.

X. Commission Comments

Vice Chair Cruise recognized the League of Cities Director Amelia Jadoo, who was in attendance.

XI. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

XII. Adjournment

At 2:27 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:



Chair/Vice Chair