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

OCTOBER 1, 2026

THURSDAY
1:30 P.M.

COMMISSION CHAMBERS
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

MEMBERS:
Rodney G. Romano, Chair
Alan I. Blass, Vice Chair
Peter L. Cruise
Michael H. Kugler
Kristin A. Vara-Garcia

COMMISSION ON ETHICS STAFF PRESENT:
Rhonda Giger, COE General Counsel
Abigail Irizarry, COE Investigator II
Christie E. Kelley, COE Director III
Gina Levesque, COE Intake and Compliance Manager

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE STAFF PRESENT:
Karla Perez, Deputy Clerk

I. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Item III was taken up at this time.)

III. Roll Call

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

Absent: Commissioner Cruise

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Kugler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

See earlier in minutes.

IV. Introductory Remarks

No introductory remarks were made.

V. Approval of Minutes from September 3, 2026

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

VI. Processed Advisory Opinions (Consent Agenda)

a. RQO 26-018

b. RQO 26-019

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

VII. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

No items were pulled from the consent agenda.

VIII. Executive Director Comments

Ms. Kelley reported the following updates:

1.

Staff participated in the County Department Fair at the Lantana Road Branch Library.

2.

Staff conducted in-person training at the Delray Beach Housing Authority and the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).

3.

The Ofiffce of Inspector General's (OIG) meeting would follow the COE's meeting in November.

IX. Commission Comments

Chair Romano shared that his family had expanded, welcoming a newborn, and noted that the family was doing well.

X. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

XI. Adjournment

At 1:41 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:



Chair/Vice Chair