

Honesty - Integrity - Character

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Commissioners Kristin A. Vara-Garcia , Chair Michael S. Kridel, Vice Chair Peter L. Cruise Rodney G. Romano Vacant

> Executive Director Christie Kelley

General Counsel Rhonda Giger

Intake & Compliance Manager Gina A. Levesque

Education & Communications Manager S. Lizabeth Martin

> Investigator Mark A. Higgs

Investigator Abigail Irizarry

News Release

For immediate release: Contact: March 8, 2024 Christie Kelley, Executive Director (561) 355-1915

Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on March 7, 2024

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics took the following action at its monthly public meeting held on March 7, 2024.

Kristin Vara-Garcia was sworn in for her upcoming term by Judge Danielle Sherriff. Commissioner Vara-Garcia was appointed to the Commission by the Palm Beach County Association of Chiefs of Police.

Commissioner Vara-Garcia was also elected as Chair for the Commission, and Michael Kridel was elected as Vice-Chair. They will serve one-year terms.

Two complaints were heard in executive session. The complete files will be on the Commission's website within seven days at: <u>http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/complaints.htm</u>.

<u>C23-026</u>: After considering the investigative report, probable cause recommendation, and statements by the COE advocate and Respondent, the COE made no finding regarding probable cause and dismissed the complaint after determining that the public interest would not be served by proceeding further.

<u>C23-031</u>: After considering the investigative report, probable cause recommendation, and statements by COE staff and Respondent, the COE made a finding that the violation was intentional and issued a letter of reprimand.

A detailed explanation of all agenda items is available at <u>http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/meetings.htm</u>.