

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

**MARCH 10, 2022**

**THURSDAY  
1:37 P.M.**

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

**I. CALL TO ORDER – Performed by Christie E. Kelley Esq., Commission on Ethics (COE) Executive Director**

**II. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

(CLERK'S NOTE: Roll Call was taken at this time)

**IV. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS:**

Peter L. Cruise, Chair  
Carol E. A. DeGraffenreidt – Via Teleconference  
Michael H. Kugler  
Rodney G. Romano

**STAFF:**

Christie E. Kelley Esq., Commission on Ethics (COE) Executive Director  
Mark A. Higgs, COE Investigator II  
Abigail Irizarry, COE Investigator II  
Gina A. Levesque, COE Intake and Compliance Manager

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:**

Danielle Freeman, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller's Office

(CLERK'S NOTE: Agenda order was restored at this time.)

**III. SWEARING IN CEREMONY BY JUDGE SARAH L. SHULLMAN-**

- a. Rodney G. Romano-Appointed by the Palm Beach County League of Cities
- b. Peter L. Cruise-Appointed by the president of FAU

**V. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRPERSON (TO BEGIN PRESIDING OVER MEETING IMMEDIATELY UPON ELECTION)**

Ms. Kelley provided an overview of the process for nominating and voting for a commissioners to serve as Chair and Vice Chair.

Commissioner Cruise nominated Commissioner Rodney Romano.

No other nominations made. Ms. Kelley closed nominations for Chair.

**VOTE to elect Commissioner Rodney Romano as Commission Chairperson carried 4-0.**

**VI. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Commissioner Cruise nominated Commission Michael Kugler for Vice Chair.

No other nominations made. Ms. Kelley closed nominations for Vice Chair.

**VOTE to elect Commissioner Michael Kugler as Vice Chair carried 4-0.**

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION A. C22-002- CANCELLED**

**MOTION to approve the October 18, 2021 Special Meeting minutes. Motion made by Commissioner Cruise, seconded by Michael Kugler and carried 4-0.**

**VIII. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT – None**

**IX. PROCESSED ADVISORY OPINIONS (CONSENT AGENDA)**

- a. RQO 22-003

**MOTION to approve the consent agenda. Motion made by Commissioner Cruise, seconded by Carol DeGraffenreidt and carried 4-0.**

**X. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – none**

**XI. DISCUSSION RE: COMMISSION ON ETHICS ORDINANCE CHANGE**

Discussion ensued regarding which organizations that expressed interest would be chosen as entities entrusted to nominate commission appointments, if one or both could be chosen, and if both were chosen how the rotation would be assigned.

**MOTION to approve the recommend both organizations serve on a 4-year rotating basis. Motion made by Michael Kugler, seconded by Peter Cruise and carried 4-0.**

**XII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Ms. Kelley stated that the BCC appointed two individuals for the Commission on Ethics Ordinance Draft Review Committee, and that the League of Cities would meet and agree to the language contained within the ordinance. Additionally, she stated that seven interviews for Commission on Ethics General Counsel would be conducted the following week.

**XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Richard Radcliffe congratulated the commissioners, Chair and Vice Chair on their new terms.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

**At 1:54 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.**

APPROVED:

  
Chair/Vice Chair