

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

MARCH 9, 2023

**THURSDAY
1:30 P.M.**

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

MEMBERS:

Rodney G. Romano, Chair
Michael H. Kugler, Vice Chair
Peter L. Cruise
Michael S. Kridel
Danielle A. Sherriff

COMMISSION ON ETHICS STAFF PRESENT:

Rhonda Giger, General Counsel
Abigail Irizarry, COE Investigator II
Christie E. Kelley, COE Director III
Gina A. Levesque, COE Intake and Compliance Manager

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

Danielle Freeman, Deputy Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

(CLERK'S NOTE: The roll call was conducted at this time.)

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Romano, Vice Chair Michael H. Kugler, Commissioner Peter L. Cruise, Commissioner Michael S. Kridel, Commissioner Danielle A. Sherriff

Absent: None

(CLERK'S NOTE: The Pledge of Allegiance was performed at this time.)

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Sherriff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Romano shared his remarks on serving as chair. He also suggested that the commission consider nominating a member who had not been nominated before to give other members an opportunity to serve in the positions of chair and vice chair.

Commissioner Cruise inquired if Chair Romano's suggestion applied to nominating Vice Chair Kugler as Chair and Commissioner Sherriff as Vice Chair, and Chair Romano said that it did.

IV. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRPERSON (to begin presiding over meeting immediately upon election)

Chair Cruise nominated Vice Chair Kugler as Chair and Commissioner Sherriff as Vice Chair, and Commissioner Kridel seconded.

No other nominations were made, and the nomination passed unanimously.

V. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF NEW VICE CHAIR

(See earlier in minutes.)

VI. INTORDUCTORY REMARKS

Vice Chair Sherriff expressed gratitude to the commission for her new role as vice chair and said she looked forward to serving with the commission.

Commissioner Cruise congratulated the chair and vice chair.

Chair Kugler thanked the commission for trusting him and Vice Chair Sherriff with their new roles.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2, 2023

MOTION to approve the February 2, 2023, minutes. Motion by Commissioner Romano, seconded by Commissioner Kridel, and carried 5-0.

VIII. PROCESSED ADVISORY OPINIONS (CONSENT AGENDA)

- a. RQO 23-001
- b. RQO 23-002
- c. RQO 23-003

- d. RQO 23-004
- e. RQO 23-005

MOTION to approve the consent agenda as published. Motion by Commissioner Romano, seconded by Vice Chair Sherriff, and carried 5-0.

IX. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

No items were pulled from consent.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

1.

Ms. Kelley said the COE office continued to work with the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust to enter in an agreement allowing the Miami-Dade Commission to conduct investigations into ethics complaints involving commissioners or staff of the COE. The intent of the agreement was to avoid any appearance of impropriety, prejudice, or bias. She added that she appreciated their joint endeavor regarding this.

2.

Ms. Kelley stated that staff had visited several municipal meetings since the last COE meeting, and they would be visiting Cloud Lakes municipal meeting that evening.

3.

Ms. Kelley said the COE had recently renewed the agreement with the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) that voluntarily placed the agency under the COE's jurisdiction. She noted that Ms. Giger had conducted a successful ethics training for them.

4.

Ms. Kelley provided a brief update on case C22-005 regarding Kenneth Payne, stating that a settlement agreement was reached resulting in the issuance of a letter of reprimand.

XI. COMMISSION COMMENTS

1.

Commissioner Romano congratulated Chair Kugler and Vice Chair Sherriff on their nominations, and he thanked staff for their hard work.

2.

Vice Chair Sherriff expressed gratitude to everyone.

3.

Commissioner Cruise asked Ms. Kelley how many CRA agreements the COE had, and Ms. Kelley said they had six in total.

4.

Chair Kugler said he looked forward to a great year as chair and said that he appreciated how well written and informative the processed advisory opinions were. He also stated he looked forward to working alongside Vice Chair Sherriff.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn. Motion by Commissioner Romano, seconded by Vice Chair Sherriff and Commissioner Cruise, and carried 5-0.

At 1:40 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:



Chair/Vice Chair