

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

**JUNE 8, 2023**

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

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

**MEMBERS:**

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

**COUNTY STAFF PRESENT:**

Rhonda Giger, COE General Counsel  
Mark. A. 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:**

Danielle Freeman, Deputy Clerk

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice Chair Sherriff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Roll Call**

**Present:** Chair Michael H. Kugler, Vice Chair Danielle A. Sheriff,  
Commissioner Peter L. Cruise, and Commissioner Rodney G.  
Romano

**Absent:** Commissioner Michael S. Kridel

#### **IV. Introductory Remarks**

Chair Kugler, Vice Chair Sherriff, and Commissioner Cruise welcomed the FAU summer interns to the meeting.

#### **V. Approval of Minutes from April 13, 2023**

**MOTION to approve the April 13, 2023, minutes. Motion by Commissioner Romano, seconded by Commissioner Cruise, and carried 4-0.**

#### **VI. Approval of Minutes from May 4, 2023**

**MOTION to approve the May 4, 2023, minutes. Motion by Commissioner Cruise, seconded by Commissioner Romano, and carried 4-0.**

#### **VII. Processed Advisory Opinions (Consent Agenda)**

- a. RQO 23-012
- b. RQO 23-013
- c. RQO 23-014
- d. RQO 23-015

**MOTION to approve the consent agenda as published. Motion by Vice Mayor Sherriff, seconded by Commissioner Cruise, and carried 4-0.**

#### **VIII. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda**

No items were pulled.

#### **IX. Executive Session Re: C23-002**

#### **RECESS**

**At 1:33 p.m., the chair declared the meeting recessed for an executive session.**

#### **RECONVENE**

**At 2:27 p.m., the meeting reconvened with Chair Kugler, Vice Chair Sherriff, Commissioner Cruise, and Commissioner Romano present.**

Vice Chair Sherriff read the following Public Report and Final Order of Dismissal:

*In Re: Edward Lynch*

Christie Kelley, Executive Director of the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE), filed the above-referenced complaint on January 5, 2023, against Respondent, Edward Lynch, a Palm Beach County Building Code Advisory Board member, alleging that Respondent improperly used or attempted to use his position as an advisory board member to give himself a special financial benefit, in violation of Section 2-443(a) of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics.

Pursuant to §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. On June 8, 2023, the Commission conducted a probable cause hearing and reviewed the Memorandum of Inquiry, the Report of Investigation, and the Probable Cause Recommendation submitted by the COE Advocate. After an oral statement by the Advocate and the Respondent, the Commission determined that probable cause exists to believe that the Respondent may have violated §2-443(a) of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics.

Therefore it is:

**ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that probable cause exists and the complaint against Respondent, Edward Lynch, will be set for a final hearing within 120 days to be coordinated between the parties.

**DONE AND ORDERED** by the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics in public session on June 8, 2023.

#### **X. Executive Director Comments**

Ms. Kelley provided the following updates:

1.

Ms. Kelley thanked Inspector General John Carey for serving as a volunteer advocate for the COE during a probable cause hearing.

2.

Since the last meeting, staff had spoken at various municipality meetings within the county and conducted several in-person ethics committee meetings.

3.

Ms. Kelley expressed sentiments of gratitude to Vice Chair Sherriff for her time on the commission, and she added that Palm Beach County was in good hands with her serving as a judge.

#### **XI. Commissioner Comments**

1.

The commission and State Attorney Aronberg congratulated Vice Chair Sherriff on her recent appointment as judge.

2.

Mr. Aronberg recognized the accomplishments of commission members and staff that had worked at the State Attorneys office.

3.

Chair Kugler presented Vice Chair Sherriff with an award for her dedication and service to the commission.

4.

Vice Chair Sherriff expressed sentiments of her time serving on the commission.

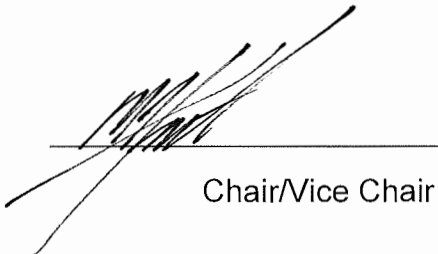
## **XII. Public Comments**

No comments were made.

## **XIII. Adjournment**

**At 2:35 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.**

APPROVED:



Chair/Vice Chair