

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

AUGUST 3, 2023

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

WEBEX TELECONFERENCE

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT:

Rhonda Giger, 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

ALSO PRESENT:

Elizabeth R. Clark, Esquire, Hearing Officer
John Cleary, COE Advocate
Edward Lynch, Respondent

Ms. Clark called the hearing to order at 2:03 p.m. and stated that the hearing concerned Case No. C23-002 against respondent Edward Lynch.

At Ms. Clark's request, the attendees stated their names for the record.

In response to a question posed by Ms. Clark, Ms. Levesque said that the final hearing date had not yet been scheduled.

Ms. Clark requested that the parties propose dates.

Mr. Cleary responded that he would need approximately 30 days.

Mr. Lynch stated that he needed more information about Mr. Cleary's strategy before proposing a date.

Mr. Cleary explained that the information contained in his preliminary reports would be expanded upon in live testimony.

Mr. Lynch inquired if there was a second charge in addition to misuse.

Mr. Cleary responded that there was one recommendation, but two code articles were cited. He suggested that he and Mr. Lynch discuss the matter further.

In response to comments by Mr. Lynch, Mr. Cleary suggested that a two-week deadline be imposed for prehearing motions.

Ms. Levesque inquired about the deadline for the witness and discovery lists.

Ms. Clark proposed an August 11, 2023, deadline for the exchange of witness lists, and the parties agreed.

Ms. Clark asked about the discovery deadline date, and Mr. Cleary requested August 18, 2023.

Mr. Lynch agreed to the proposed date.

Mr. Cleary requested an August 18, 2023, deadline for motions, and Mr. Lynch agreed.

Discussion ensued regarding the projected duration of the final hearing.

The parties agreed to a final hearing date of September 7, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Clark noted that the hearing would conclude by 1:30 p.m.

Ms. Levesque said that she would send Ms. Clark a proposed order for her review and signature.

Ms. Clark notified the attendees that they would receive the order in one to two days.

At 2:17 p.m., Ms. Clark declared the hearing concluded.

APPROVED: