

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

AUGUST 3, 2023

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

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

MEMBERS:

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

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

I. Call to Order

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Kridel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Present: Vice Chair Kristen Vara-Garcia, Commissioner Michael S. Kridel,
and Commissioner Rodney G. Romano

Absent: Chair Michael H. Kugler and Commissioner Peter L. Cruise

IV. Introductory Remarks

There were no introductory remarks.

V. Approval of minutes from July 6, 2023

MOTION to approve the July 6, 2023, meeting minutes. Motion by Commissioner Romano, seconded by Commissioner Kridel, and carried 3-0.

VI. Processed Advisory Opinions (Consent Agenda)

a. RQO 23-016

b. RQO 23-017

MOTION to approve the consent agenda as published. Motion by Commissioner Romano, seconded by Commissioner Kridel, and carried 3-0.

VII. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

No items were pulled from consent.

VIII. Executive Director Comments

Ms. Kelley stated that the COE was six months into the second year of the five-year strategic plan. She provided updates regarding the commission's progress toward achieving its objectives in the following areas: exceptional service delivery; implementation of a marketing plan; maintenance and motivation of a highly skilled and agile team; overhauling of the COE website; enhancement of the comprehensive education program; and the fostering of community partnerships.

Ms. Kelley also reported that staff had spoken at several municipalities since the last COE meeting and said that Ms. Giger was in the process of conducting ethics trainings for the Village of Tequesta.

IX. Commission Comments

No comments were made.

XI. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn. Motion by Commissioner Romano, seconded by Commissioner Kridel, and carried 3-0.

At 1:37 p.m., the vice chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:


Chair/Vice Chair