



Honesty - Integrity - Character

Palm Beach County

Commission on Ethics

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Commissioners

Peter L. Cruise

Carol E. A. DeGraffenreidt

Michael S. Kridel

Michael H. Kugler

Rodney G. Romano

Executive Director

Mark E. Bannon

Intake and Compliance Manager

Gina A. Levesque

General Counsel

Christie E. Kelley

Investigator

Abigail Irizarry

Investigator

Mark A. Higgs

Agenda

July 8, 2021 – 1:30 p.m.

Governmental Center,
301 North Olive Avenue, 6th Floor
Commissioners Chambers

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Introductory Remarks
- IV. Approval of Minutes from June 3, 2021
- V. Executive Director Comments
- VI. Commission Comments
- VII. Public Comments
- VIII. Adjournment

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by this Commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, (s)he will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, (s)he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

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

JUNE 3, 2021

**THURSDAY
9:30 A.M.**

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Peter L. Cruise, Chair
Michael S. Kridel, Vice Chair
Carol E. A. DeGraffenreidt
Michael H. Kugler
Rodney G. Romano

STAFF:

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

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

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

III. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS – None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 6, 2021

MOTION to approve the May 6, 2021 minutes. Motion by Carol DeGraffenreidt, seconded by Michael Kridel, and carried 5-0.

RECESS

At 9:30 a.m., the chair declared the meeting recessed for an executive session.

RECONVENE

At 10:30 a. m., the meeting reconvened, and at Chair Cruise's request for a roll call, Commissioners DeGraffenreidt, Kridel, Kugler and Romano were present.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION- C20-003

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

Complainant, George Gretsas, filed the above referenced complaint on October 14, 2020, alleging Respondent, Shelly Petrolia, violated §2-443(b) }1 *Corrupt misuse of official position*, of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics by using her position as the mayor of the city of Delray Beach to ask Complainant to speak with the property appraiser about adjusting the assessments of 29 properties that Respondent provided to him, which she felt were undervalued and undertaxed. According to Complainant, the majority of the properties on the list were owned by individuals Respondent did not like or who had previously supported the political opponents of hers.

Pursuant to §2-258 (a) 1 of the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Ordinance, the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics is empowered to enforce the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics. On June 3, 2021, the Commission conducted a hearing and reviewed the Report of Investigation, and the Probable Cause Recommendation submitted by the COE Advocate. After an oral statement by the Advocate and Respondent, the Commission concluded that probable cause does not exist because there was no evidence that a violation had occurred.

Therefore, it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the complaint against Respondent, Shelly Petrolia, is hereby **DISMISSED**

DONE AND ORDERED by the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics in public session on June 3, 2021.

By: Peter L. Cruise, Chair

(CLERK'S NOTE: The clerk added the language as printed in the Public Report and Final Order of Dismissal.)

Mr. Kridel asked about the typographical error that created a nonsensical sentence in the Public Report and Final Order of Dismissal.

In response Mr. Bannon stated that the typo was scrivener error that would be corrected prior to filing.

VI. PROCESSED ADVISORY OPINIONS (CONSENT AGENDA)

a. RQO 21-009

MOTION to approve the consent agenda. Motion by Michael Kugler, seconded by Rodney Romano, and carried 5-0.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

VII.a. Mark Bannon, COE Executive Director, stated that on June 15, 2021 the ethics ordinance changes would go before the BCC for the 2nd hearing. If the changes passed, they would take effect July 1st.

VII.b. Mr. Bannon thanked staff for their assistance in preparing the ethics ordinance changes.

- The Lynne Hubbard case was on hold until July due to conflicts of interest with the hearing officers.
- Due to the new mask mandate for fully vaccinated employees, staff was back in the office.
 - Some work would be completed remotely.
 - At least one employee would always be in the office.

VIII. COMMISSION COMMENTS – None

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:35 a.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

Chair/Vice Chair