

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

APRIL 1, 2021

**THURSDAY
1:30 P.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:

Julie Burns, Deputy Clerk, Clerk & Comptroller's Office

III. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS – None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 4, 2021

MOTION to approve the March 4, 2021 minutes. Motion by Rodney Romano, seconded by Carol DeGraffenreidt, and carried 5-0.

V. PROCESSED ADVISORY OPINIONS (CONSENT AGENDA)

V.I.a. RQO 21-002

V.I.b. RQO 21-003

V.I.c. RQO 21-004

V.I.d. RQO 21-005

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

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

VI.a.

DISCUSSED: Ethics Ordinance Changes.

Mark Bannon, COE Executive Director, said that the ethics ordinance changes would go before the BCC on May 18, 2021 and June 15, 2021. He added that if approved, the changes would go into effect July 1, 2021.

VI.b.

DISCUSSED: Lynne Hubbard Case.

Mr. Bannon said that the Lynne Hubbard final hearing for April 7-8, 2021 was continued due to a participant's medical issue. He added that no date was set, but the final hearing's conclusion was anticipated sometime in May 2021.

VI.c.

DISCUSSED: Susan Haynie, Former City of Boca Raton Mayor.

Mr. Bannon said that:

- Ms. Haynie pled guilty to two misdemeanor counts, one misuse of position, and one voting conflict.
- She received a year's probation with special circumstances, a \$1,000 fine, and 100 hours of community service.
- He believed that it was admirable of Ms. Haynie to write an apology letter to her constituents.

VI.d.

DISCUSSED: Commendation.

Mr. Bannon said that Anthony Bennett, former COE Chief Investigator, accepted a position with the City of Atlanta as Deputy Inspector General. He wished Mr. Bennett and his family well.

VII. COMMISSION COMMENTS

VII.a.

DISCUSSED: Commendation.

Chair Cruise commended COE staff for their hard work on the Lynne Hubbard case.

VII.b.

DISCUSSED: Commendation.

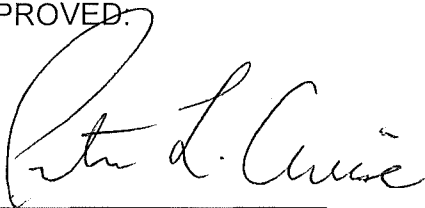
Commissioner Romano said that he appreciated Mr. Bannon's time and thought in writing the ethics opinions and that RQO 21-002 was written like an appellate opinion.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 1:35 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:



Chair/Vice-Chair