

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

**June 2, 2022**

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

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

**MEMBERS:**

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

**STAFF:**

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 AND COMPTROLLER OFFICE STAFF PRESENT:**

Danielle Freeman, Deputy Clerk

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

(CLERK'S NOTE: The clerk called the roll at this time.)

**V. ROLL CALL**

**Present**                      Chair Rodney Romano, Vice Chair Michael Kugler,  
Commissioner Peter Cruise, and Commissioner Kridel

**Absent**                      Commissioner Carol DeGraffenreidt

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Romano reordered the agenda without objection for the purpose of swearing in Michael S. Kridel.

**IV. SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR MICHAEL S. KRIDEL, APPOINTED BY PALM BEACH CHAPTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED FRAUD EXAMINERS. SWEARING-IN BY CHIEF JUDGE GLENN D. KELLEY, 15<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA.**

**III. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

The commission welcomed Commissioner Kridel back.

(CLERK'S NOTE: The original order of the agenda was restored at this time.)

**VI. PROCESSED ADVISORY OPINIONS (CONSENT AGENDA)**

- a. RQO 22-006
- b. RQO 22-008
- c. RQO-22-009
- d. RQO-22-010

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

**VII. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

There were no items pulled from consent.

**VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Christie Kelley, Executive Director, provided the following updates:

- Commissioner DeGraffenreidt had resigned as a COE commissioner due to the position she had taken in Jacksonville, Florida.
- Commissioner DeGraffenreidt would attend the August meeting to be recognized for her service on the commission.
- Staff had reached out to The Palm Beach County Association of Chiefs of Police, which had appointed Commissioner DeGraffenreidt, to initiate the search for an appointee who would serve the remainder of her term through February of 2024.

- Ms. Kelley stated that she would be conducting ten trainings for the Town of Palm Beach.
- On July 6, 2022, trainings would be held for COE and County staff on gift reporting.

**IX. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

The commission again welcomed back Commissioner Kridel.

1.

Vice Chair Kugler gave closing remarks regarding working with Commissioner DeGraffenreidt, and expressed appreciation for her contributions to the commission.

2.

Commissioner Cruise thanked Ms. Kelley for her responsiveness to the commission's inquiries. He added that he would be the auctioneer for the mayor's ball if one was held this year.

3.

Commissioner Kridel expressed his gratitude to Ms. Kelley and Gina Levesque for their efforts regarding his return to the commission.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION to adjourn. Motion by Vice Chair Kugler, seconded by Commissioner Cruise, and carried 4-0.**

**At 1:39 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.**

APPROVED:

  
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Chair/Vice Chair