



*Honesty - Integrity - Character*

**Palm Beach County**

**Commission on Ethics**

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**Commissioners**

Michael S. Kridel

Peter L. Cruise

Michael H. Kugler

Rodney G. Romano

Kristin A. Vara-Garcia

**Executive Director**

Christie Kelley

**General Counsel**

Rhonda Giger

**Intake & Compliance Manager**

Gina A. Levesque

**Education & Communications Manager**

S. Lizabeth Martin

**Investigator**

Mark A. Higgs

**Investigator**

Abigail Irizarry

# *Agenda*

October 9, 2025 – 1:30 p.m.

Governmental Center,  
301 North Olive Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Commissioners Chambers

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Introductory Remarks
- V. Approval of Minutes from September 4, 2025
- VI. Executive Director Comments
- VII. Commission Comments
- VIII. Public Comments
- IX. 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 (COE)  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**SEPTEMBER 4, 2025**

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

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

**MEMBERS:**

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

**COMMISSION ON ETHICS STAFF PRESENT:**

Rhonda Giger, General Counsel  
Mark 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:**

Karla Perez, Board Meetings Specialist

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Cruise led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Roll Call**

Present: Vice Chair Cruise, Chair Kridel, Commissioner Romano, and  
Commissioner Vara-Garcia

Absent: Commissioner Kugler

**IV. Introductory Remarks**

No comments were made.

**V. Approval of Minutes from August 7, 2025**

**MOTION to approve the minutes. Motion by Vice Chair Cruise, seconded by Commissioner Romano, and carried 4-0.**

**VI. Processed Advisory Opinions (Consent Agenda)**

**a. RQO 25-008**

**b. RQO 25-009**

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

**VII. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda**

COMMISSION ON ETHICS

1

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

## **VIII. Executive Director Comments**

Ms. Kelley reported the following updates:

In August, staff had completed all the presentations and training required for the municipalities in the special districts.

Ms. Giger would provide ethics training over four consecutive weeks for county employees and officials.

Ms. Martin would be attending several outreach events in September including participating in the Palm Beach County Department Fair.

## **IX. Commission Comments**

Vice Chair Cruise inquired about the replacement of former Executive Director of the Palm Beach County League of Cities, Richard Radcliffe.

Ms. Kelley responded that the information was not available, but it would be forthcoming.

## **X. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **XI. Adjournment**

**At 1:33 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.**