

**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) *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