

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

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

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

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

MEMBERS:

Rodney G. Romano, Chair
Michael H. Kugler, Vice Chair
Peter L. Cruise
Michael S. Kridel
Danielle A. Sherriff

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT:

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 COURT & COMPTROLLER'S 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 Pledge of Allegiance was performed at this time)

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Sherriff.

(CLERK'S NOTE: The chair reordered the agenda to take roll call before introductory remarks.)

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

IV. ROLL CALL

All members were present.

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

III. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

No introductory remarks were made.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 2, 2022

MOTION to approve the June 2, 2022 minutes. Motion by Commissioner Cruise, seconded by Vice Chair Kugler, and carried 5-0.

VI. PROCESSED ADVISORY OPINIONS (CONSENT AGENDA)

a. **RQO 22-017**

b. **RQO 22-018**

Commissioner Cruise said that he liked the newly implemented brief answer section displayed after the question on the advisory opinions.

MOTION to approve the consent agenda as published. Motion by Vice Chair Kugler, seconded by Commissioner Kridel, and carried 5-0.

VII. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

No items were pulled from consent.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Christie Kelley, COE Director III, provided the following updates:

1. Gina Levesque, Intake and Compliance Manager, attended a social media marketing class on August 8, 2022. Ms. Kelley added that she had hoped to attend the class as well, but she was unable to due to having jury duty.
2. On August 29-30, Abigail Irizarry, Investigator II, had attended a webinar utilizing techniques to collect open source intelligence, which would be very useful in investigations.
3. The COE had attended 36 out of 39 municipality meetings along with two County commission meetings.

4. Starting September 9, 2022 through mid-October, staff would be conducting 20 in-person code of ethics trainings for the Town of Palm Beach Gardens.

IX. COMMISSION COMMENTS

1. Commissioner Cruise stated that he had noticed an increased social media presence by the COE and the Office of Inspector General (OIG) on Twitter.
2. Chair Romano and Commissioner Cruise commended Inspector General Carey on a successful report for their office.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Radcliffe announced there would be a four-hour code of ethics training held in Lake Worth on October 13, 2022, for any elected officials. In addition, he thanked Ms. Kelley and the commission for providing the service.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn. Motion by Vice Chair Kugler, seconded by Commission Cruise, and carried 5-0.

At 1:37 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:



Chair/Vice Chair