

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

**FEBRUARY 8, 2023**

**WEDNESDAY  
9:00 A.M.**

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

**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:**

Jillian Zalewska, Deputy Clerk

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Elizabeth R. Clark, Esquire, Hearing Officer  
John Cleary, COE Advocate  
Kenneth Payne, Respondent

In re: Kenneth Payne

Ms. Clark called the hearing to order at 9:08 a.m. and stated that the hearing concerned Case No. C22-005 against respondent Kenneth Payne.

At Ms. Clark's request, the attendees stated their names for the record.

Mr. Cleary discussed the settlement agreement, and he stated that the letter of reprimand had been agreed upon in order not to go forward with a final hearing.

Ms. Clark performed the swearing-in for Mr. Payne.

Ms. Clark asked had the negotiated settlement and paperwork been reviewed.

Mr. Payne confirmed it had been.

Ms. Clark asked if there were any remarks regarding it.

Mr. Payne stated there was not and he was prepared to move forward.

Ms. Clark asked if there was any paperwork that needed to be submitted.

Mr. Cleary submits a draft of the final public report and letter of reprimand.

Ms. Clark stated that she had received a copy of the negotiated settlement via email, and she had reviewed the public report and final order that morning. She asked for a moment to review the letter of reprimand.

Ms. Clark asked Mr. Cleary if there was any evidence or testimony.

Mr. Cleary responded that there was not, and they were concluded.

At 9:13 a.m., Ms. Clark declared the hearing concluded.