

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

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

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

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

MEMBERS:

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

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT:

Rhonda Giger, General Counsel
Mark. A. Higgs, COE Investigator II
Abigail Irizarry, COE Investigator II
Christie E. Kelley, COE Director III
S. Lizabeth Martin, COE Communication and Education 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 1:31 p.m.

Chair Kugler stated that no votes would be taken and no executive session would be held due to lack of a quorum.

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

III. Roll Call

Present: Chair Michael H. Kugler and Vice Chair Kristen Vara-Garcia

Absent: Commissioner Peter L. Cruise, Commissioner Michael S. Kridel, and Commissioner Rodney G. Romano

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was not performed.

IV. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

No remarks were made.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 5, 2023

No votes were taken due to lack of a quorum.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: C23-003

No executive session was held due to lack of a quorum.

VII. Executive Director Comments

1.

Ms. Kelley provided an update on the Edward Lynch case, and she thanked COE Advocate John Cleary for his efforts regarding the case.

2.

Ms. Kelley and Norman Ostrau, Ethics Officer for the City of West Palm Beach, had provided a joint training for the Palm Beach County League of Cities. She expressed gratitude to Richard Radcliffe for his efforts.

3.

Ms. Kelly stated that COE Communication and Education Manager S. Lizbeth Martin had spoken at several events.

4.

Ms. Kelley stated that the COE had prepared a public service announcement that would air in December, and she added that the December COE meeting would be held on the second Thursday of the month.

VIII. Commission Comments

Chair Kugler and Vice Chair Vara-Garcia wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

IX. Public Comments

Richard Radcliffe expressed gratitude to the staff for their efforts regarding the Commission on Ethics trainings that had been conducted with the League of Cities.

X. Adjournment

At 1:36 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:



Justin M. Naugle
Chair/Vice Chair