

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

FEBRUARY 1, 2024

**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
Abigail Irizarry, COE Investigator II
Christie E. Kelley, COE Director III
Gina Levesque, COE Intake and Compliance Manager

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE STAFF PRESENT:

Alyssa Berg, Board Meetings Specialist

I. Call to Order

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Romano led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

All members were present.

IV. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

There were no introductory remarks.

V. PROCESSED ADVISORY OPINIONS (CONSENT AGENDA)

a. **RQO 24-002**

MOTION to approve the consent agenda. Motion by Commissioner Cruise, seconded by Vice Chair Vara-Garcia, and carried 5-0.

VI. ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

No items were pulled from the consent agenda.

VII. Executive Director Comments

Ms. Kelley stated that an amendment had been added to Senate Bill 7014 that included a prohibition of self-initiated complaints by local ethics agencies. She also said the COE's office had begun drafting a statement opposing the amendment to the bill.

A draft of the statement was distributed to the commissioners for review.

Ms. Kelley thanked Ms. Levesque for her assistance with the statistics.

Discussion ensued regarding the distribution of the statement upon finalization.

MOTION to approve the drafted statement opposing the amendment to Senate Bill 7014 and to direct staff to take the necessary actions. Motion by Commissioner Romano, seconded by Commissioner Cruise, and carried 5-0.

Discussion ensued regarding the amendment to Senate Bill 7014, and Ms. Kelley responded to questions from the commission.

VIII. Commission Comments

Commissioner Cruise thanked Vice Chair Vara-Garcia and staff for their participation in the Ethics Bowl at Florida Atlantic University. He invited everyone to attend next year.

Commissioner Romano thanked Ms. Levesque and Ms. Kelley for their promptness in preparing the statement for the commission.

IX. Public Comments

No comments were made.

X. Adjournment

At 1:41 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kristin A. Naragurcia", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the text "Chair/Vice Chair" is printed.

Chair/Vice Chair