

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

**APRIL 4, 2024**

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

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

**MEMBERS:**

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

**COMMISSION ON ETHICS 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  
S. Lizabeth Martin, COE Communication and Education Manager

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

Danielle Freeman, Deputy Clerk  
Chayanne Munet, Deputy Clerk

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Judge Reid Scott performed the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. SWEARING IN CEREMONY BY JUDGE REID SCOTT**

Judge Reid Scott performed the swearing-in for Commissioner Michael Kugler.

#### **IV. ROLL CALL**

All members were present.

#### **V. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Commissioner Cruise welcomed Commissioner Kugler back to the Committee.

Commissioner Kugler congratulated Chair Vara-Garcia and Vice Chair Kridel on their new positions.

#### **VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 7, 2024.**

**MOTION to approve the March 7, 2024, minutes. Motion by Commissioner Cruise, seconded by Commissioner Kugler, and carried 5-0.**

#### **VII. PROCESSED ADVISORY OPINIONS (CONSENT AGENDA)**

- a. RQO 24-003
- b. RQO 24-004

#### **VIII. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

No items were pulled from the consent agenda.

#### **IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

1.

Ms. Kelley conferred with the Board about a draft letter of opposition that would be sent to Governor DeSantis concerning Senate Bill 7014.

2.

Ms. Kelley discussed the ethics training that staff had provided to the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, the new firefighters at Hyland Beach, and for the City of Boynton Beach.

3.

Ms. Kelley stated that staff had spoken at various municipalities.

**X. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

No comments were made.

**XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments were made.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

APPROVED:

  
Chair/Vice Chair