

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

JUNE 6, 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
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:

Alyssa Berg, Deputy Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Romano performed the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

All members were present.

IV. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

No remarks were made.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 2, 2024

MOTION to approve the May 2, 2024, minutes. Motion by Commissioner Kugler, seconded by Commissioner Cruise, and carried 5-0.

VI. Executive Session for C23-007

RECESS

At 1:31 p.m., the chair declared the meeting recessed for executive session.

RECONVENE

At 2:01 p.m., the meeting reconvened with all members present.

Vice chair Kridel read the final order into the record:

RE: C23-007

Christie Kelley, Executive Director of the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE), filed the above-referenced complaint against Respondent, Marianne Miles, former Councilmember of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves. The complaint alleges that Respondent violated Sections 2-443(a), *Misuse of office or employment, and/or 2-443(c), Disclosure of voting conflicts*, of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics. These violations occurred on several occasions when Respondent may have used or attempted to use her official position in a manner that would result in a prohibited entity receiving a special financial benefit by discussing and/or voting on matters when she should have abstained from those discussions or votes and/or should have filed a voting conflict form(s).

Pursuant to Sec. 2-258(a) of the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Ordinance, the COE is empowered to enforce the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics. On June 6, 2024, in lieu of a probable cause hearing, the COE advocate recommended the issuance of a letter of instruction and a dismissal of the complaint. This recommendation is proposed because Respondent is no longer an elected official, thus is unlikely to violate the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics in the future. Additionally, on two occasions, it appeared the violations were unintentional because Respondent later attempted to rectify her improper votes by “withdrawing” them.

Pursuant to Commission on Ethics Ordinance Sec. 2-260.3(b), Dismissal of complaints, the complaint may be dismissed and a letter of instruction issued at this stage of the proceedings if the violation appears to have been inadvertent, unintentional, or insubstantial.

Therefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the complaint against Respondent, Marianne Miles, is hereby DISMISSED and a Letter of Instruction is issued.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics in public session on this 6th day of June, 2024.

VII. PROCESSED ADVISORY OPINIONS (CONSENT AGENDA)

- a. RQO 24-006
- b. RQO 24-008
- c. RQO 24-009

MOTION to approve the consent agenda. Motion by Commissioner Cruise, seconded by Commissioner Romano, and carried 5-0.

VIII. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

No items were pulled from the consent agenda.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

- 1. Ms. Kelley discussed the COE'S Interlocal Agreement with West Lake that had recently been approved at the BCC meeting.
- 2. Ms. Kelley spoke about the in-person ethics training held by the City of Boynton Beach.
- 3. Ms. Kelley stated that staff had participated in meetings with various municipalities.

X. COMMISSION COMMENTS

No comments were made.


XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Aktas, Erin Aktas, Matthew Aktas, Mikki Isackson, Candace Rojas, and Andrew Charles Eranch

XII. ADJOURNMENT

At 2:20 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:


Chair/Vice Chair