

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

**DECEMBER 5, 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 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:**

Chayanne Munet, Deputy Clerk  
Jillian Zalewska, Deputy Clerk

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

(CLERK'S NOTE: Vice Chair Kridel acted as meeting chair.)

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

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The commissioners recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ROLL CALL**

Present: Vice Chair Michael S. Kridel, Commissioner Peter L. Cruise,  
Commissioner Michael H. Kugler, and Commissioner Rodney G.  
Romano

Absent: Chair Kristin A. Vara-Garcia

#### **IV. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

There were no introductory remarks.

#### **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 7, 2024**

**MOTION to approve the November 7, 2024, minutes. Motion by Commissioner Kugler, seconded by Commissioner Cruise, and carried 4-0.**

#### **VI. Processed Advisory Opinions (Consent Agenda)**

(CLERK'S NOTE: The Processed Advisory Opinions were taken up individually.)

##### **a. RQO 24-017**

**MOTION to approve Processed Advisory Opinion RQO 24-017. Motion by Commissioner Cruise, seconded by Commissioner Romano, and carried 4-0.**

##### **b. RQO 24-018**

**MOTION to approve Processed Advisory Opinion RQO 24-018. Motion by Commissioner Cruise, seconded by Commissioner Kugler, and carried 4-0.**

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

No items were pulled from the consent agenda.

#### **VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Ms. Kelley provided the following updates:

1.

The COE and the County Attorney's office had conducted one-on-one ethics overview trainings for the new members of the Board of County Commissioners.

2.

In December, staff was scheduled to conduct in-person ethics trainings with the City of Riviera Beach and to participate in an outreach event with Junior Achievement.

3.

COE staff would be participating in the High School Ethics Bowl on December 14<sup>th</sup> at Florida Atlantic University.

Ms. Kelley wished everyone happy holidays and a happy new year.

**IX. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

The commissioners wished everyone happy holidays.

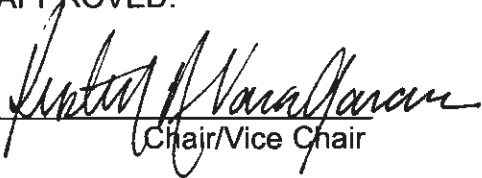
**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

APPROVED:

  
Chair/Vice Chair