

**OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES
OF THE
PALM BEACH COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS (COE)
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 6, 2025**

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

**WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

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:

Jillian Zalewska, Deputy Clerk

I. Call to Order

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Vara-Garcia recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Present: Chair Kristin A. Vara-Garcia, Vice Chair Michael S. Kridel,
Commissioner Michael H. Kugler, and Commissioner Rodney G.
Romano

Absent: Commissioner Peter L. Cruise

IV. Introductory Remarks

No comments were made.

V. Approval of Minutes from January 9, 2025

MOTION to approve the minutes. Motion by Commissioner Kugler, seconded by Commissioner Romano, and carried 4-0.

VI. Processed Advisory Opinions (Consent Agenda)

RQO 25-002

MOTION to approve the consent agenda. Motion by Commissioner Kugler, seconded by Commissioner Romano, and carried 4-0.

VII. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

No items were pulled from the consent agenda.

VIII. Executive Director Comments

Ms. Kelley shared the following comments:

- In January, staff had conducted ethics training for the City of Riviera Beach.
- Three additional training sessions were scheduled for the City of Riviera Beach in February.
- Several outreach events were upcoming.
- COE staff were working with County Administration to request that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) convene the Ordinance Review Committee in order to revise the COE ordinance to reflect changes implemented by the state legislature.
- On March 11, the BCC would be presenting a proclamation declaring March as Ethics Awareness Month.
- New chairs and vice chairs would be elected at the March 6 COE meeting, and group photos would be taken.

XI. Commission Comments

No comments were made.

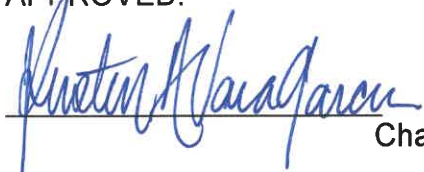
XII. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

XIII. Adjournment

At 1:33 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kristin A. Garcia", written over a horizontal line.

Chair/Vice Chair