

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

APRIL 3, 2025

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

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

MEMBERS:

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

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:

Danielle Freeman, Deputy Clerk

I. Call to Order

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

(CLERK'S NOTE: The roll call was taken up before the Pledge of Allegiance.)

III. Roll Call

All members were present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The commissioners recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Introductory Remarks

Commissioner Vara-Garcia commended staff on the annual reports.

V. Approval of Minutes from March 6, 2026

MOTION to approve the minutes. Motion by Commissioner Kugler, seconded by Vice Chair Cruise, and carried 5-0.

VI. Processed Advisory Opinions (Consent Agenda)

a. RQO 25-004

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

VII. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

VIII. Executive Director Comments

Ms. Kelly announced that the COE had received two proclamations: one from the BCC, presented by Commissioner Woodward, in honor of Ethics Awareness Month, and another from the City of Palm Beach Gardens.

Ms. Kelly stated that staff participated in various outreach events in March as well as a joint ethics awareness event with the Office of the Inspector General.

Ms. Kelly reported that staff had attended various municipal meetings.

Ms. Kelly said that the COE staff was collaborating with the County Administration to establish the COE Review Committee with the aim of revising the ordinance. The Review Committee will include two BCC appointees, Christie Kelly, the County Attorney's Office, and two representatives from the League of Cities. This initiative is expected to progress around early May or June, in connection with Senate Bill 7014.

Responding to a question from Vice Chair Cruise, Ms. Kelly stated that the purpose of the review committee was to make sure that they were in compliance.

IX. Commission Comments

No comments were made.

X. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn. Motion by Commissioner Kugler, seconded by Commissioner Romano, and carried 5-0.

At 1:35 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:


Chair/Vice Chair