

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

JUNE 4, 2026

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

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

MEMBERS:

Rodney G. Romano, Chair
Alan I. Blass, Vice Chair
Peter L. Cruise
Michael H. Kugler
Kristin A. Vara-Garcia

COMMISSION ON ETHICS STAFF PRESENT:

Abigail Irizarry, COE Investigator II
Christie E. Kelley, COE Director III
Gina A. Levesque, COE Intake and Compliance Manager
S. Lizbeth Martin, COE Communication and Education Manager

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

Samantha Giaratana, Board Meetings Specialist

I. Call to Order

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

All members were present.

IV. Introductory Remarks

No introductory remarks were made.

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. April 16, 2026
- b. May 7, 2026

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

VI. Processed Advisory Opinions (Consent Agenda)

- a. RQO 26-011
- b. RQO 26-012

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

VII. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

No items were pulled from the consent agenda.

VIII. Executive Director Comments

Ms. Kelley reported the following updates:

1.

Staff remained busy with outreach and training activities.

2.

Staff delivered presentations at various municipalities and commissions.

3.

Staff conducted in-person ethics training for elected officials in the City of Belle Glade.

4.

Staff completed five training compliance reviews to ensure that the municipalities were following their policies.

5.

Ms. Levesque was recognized and thanked for her 16 years of service with the COE.

6.

The next COE meeting will be held on Thursday, July 9th.

7.

Ms. Kelley wished everyone a good Juneteenth and Happy Fourth of July.

IX. Commission Comments

Commissioner Cruise informed the commissioners that the Inspector General (IG) contract had been completed.

X. Public Comments

Norman Ostrau requested that Commissioner Cruise engage his contacts at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) to determine available resources for training elected state officials in recognizing, identifying, and reporting potential foreign influence campaigns.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Cruise stated that his department would contact him.

XI. Adjournment

At 1:38 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:



Chair/Vice Chair