



Ethics Review Board for the City of New Orleans

Board Meeting of December 9, 2024, at Robert E. Smith Branch, New Orleans Public Library, Canal Blvd., New Orleans, Louisiana

Minutes

1. *Call to Order.*
 - 1.1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.
 - 1.2. Attendance
 - 1.2.1. ERB members present:
 - 1.2.1.1.Dawn Broussard, Chair
 - 1.2.1.2.Holly Callia
 - 1.2.1.3.Tyrone G. Jefferson, Jr.
 - 1.2.1.4.Patrice Sentino
 - 1.2.2. ERB members absent:
 - 1.2.2.1.Monique G. Doucette
 - 1.2.2.2.Sally Richardson
 - 1.2.3. Staff member present: Dane S. Ciolino, Executive Administrator & General Counsel
 - 1.2.4. Staff member present: Jordy Stiggs, Ethics Trainer.
 - 1.3. The agenda for the meeting is attached.
2. *Approval of Minutes.* Upon a duly made and seconded motion, the ERB unanimously approved the minutes of the regular ERB meeting held in November 2024.

3. *Monthly Report of the Office of the Inspector General.*
 - 3.1. Ed Michel appeared on behalf of the Office of the Inspector General. He appeared with Mike Laughlin, general counsel for OIG.
 - 3.2. The board accepted Mr. Michel's monthly report (attached).
 - 3.3. Mr. Michel reported on a recent guilty plea from an NOPD officer whose misconduct was investigated by his office.
 - 3.4. His office has been asked to assist in investigations into certain allegations of misconduct.
 - 3.5. Deputy Inspector General Alison Broyles for audit and review reported on the OPSO audit and investigation. The report speaks for itself, but Ms. Broyles reported on the highlights of the report.
 - 3.5.1. Ms. Sentino asked about issues related to the use of BRASS by OPSO. Ms. Broyles responded with OPSO's arguments for independence and other reasons.
 - 3.5.2. Mr. Michel noted that the City Council may address this issue via an ordinance.
 - 3.6. Patrice Rose, Chief of Inspections and Evaluations, discussed the Orleans Parish Communications District purchased software in a manner that was not transparent and that ultimately did not function as required by NOPD and OPSO.
 - 3.6.1. Ms. Rose and Mr. Michel noted that the District has been receptive to the recommendations and policy changes, including internal controls, made by the OIG.
 - 3.6.2. Ms. Callia clarified the extent to which the state regulates the District. The OIG responded that the state has changed the makeup of the District.
 - 3.7. Mr. Michel introduced the OIG's new HR manager. She will handle all personnel actions, training, and the like for the OIG.
 - 3.8. Mr. Michel introduced his new Public Information Officer who highlighted the PIO initiative to create public awareness about their function through RTA bus and street car ads.
 - 3.8.1. Mr. Ciolino suggested that ERB Trainer Jordy Stiggs be included in some of these public awareness initiatives.

4. *Monthly Report of the Office of Independent Police Monitor.*

- 4.1. Ms. Sziment did not appear on behalf of the Office of the Independent Police Monitor. A deputy who did not identify herself appeared along with Sharonda Williams.
- 4.2. The board accepted Ms. Cziment's monthly report (attached).
- 4.3. The OIPM noted that there will be a December 17th public comment hearing in federal court on the consent decree. There are a number of questions regarding what might change with the new administration at the DOJ beginning in 2025.
- 4.4. The OIPM has engaged in public communications about how to prevent violence at second-line parades. These social media communications revealed that the community is split on the efficacy of additional police presence.
 - 4.4.1. Mr. Jefferson asked whether the OIPM had any recommendations regarding the issue of police presence. The OIPM noted that it had no recommendations regarding increased police presence at these events.
 - 4.4.2. Ms. Broussard asked whether the OIPM has reviewed the permitting process. The OIPM noted that it has not looked into permitting issues.
- 4.5. The OIPM reported on last month's podcasts and the guests who appeared, including Councilmember Oliver Thomas.
- 4.6. The OIPM and board discussed issues with the offices of the OIPM, including that the elevator is not functional. The board offered its assistance to the OIPM in working with the landlord to improve the condition of the building.

5. *Monthly Report of the Ethics Trainer*

- 5.1. Jordy Stiggs was ill and did not appear.
- 5.2. The board accepted Mr. Stiggs's monthly report (attached).

6. *Report of the Executive Administrator and General Counsel.*

- 6.1. Mr. Ciolino presented his monthly report (attached).
- 6.2. Mr. Ciolino reported that there have received no complaints since the last board meeting.
- 6.3. The City's 2025 Budget allocated the Ethics Review Board \$305,093 which is \$5,642 (or 1.9%) more than the \$299,451 the ERB received in 2024.
- 6.4. Mr. Ciolino reported that one ERB position (Dillard) must be filled. The mayor's office is working on this and has received nominations.

- 6.5. Mr. Ciolino reported that four (4) Council and Mayoral appointments remain unfilled on QARACs for the IG and the IPM.
- 7. *Executive Session*
 - 7.1. After a motion, duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to go into executive session at 4:29 p.m. pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes section 42:17(A)(4) to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct, namely, ERB Complaint No. 2023-04 and 2023-05.
 - 7.2. After a motion, duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to return to general session at 4:57 p.m.
- 8. *Resolution of Complaints 2024-04 and 2024-05*
 - 8.1. After a motion, duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to refer ERB Complaint 2024-04 to the OIG for further investigation.
 - 8.2. After a motion, duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to dismiss ERB Complaint 2024-05 for failure to claim a violation of the City of New Orleans Code of Ethics. Rather, the complaint claimed a violation of the public bid laws.
- 9. *Discussion of Locations of Future Meetings*
 - 9.1. Mr. Ciolino will check with City Hall regarding availability of council chambers.
 - 9.2. Mr. Ciolino will consult with Ms. Broussard on this.
- 10. *Adjournment.*
 - 10.1. A motion was made to adjourn the ERB meeting.
 - 10.2. The motion was seconded.
 - 10.3. The ERB unanimously voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

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