



Ethics Review Board for the City of New Orleans

Board Meeting of February 19, 2024, at 3:37 P.M. at Loyola Law School, New Orleans

Minutes

1. *Call to Order.*

1.1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

1.2. ERB members present:

1.2.1. Wanda A. Brooks

1.2.2. Dawn Broussard

1.2.3. Elizabeth Livingston de Calderon

1.2.4. Holly Callia, Chair

1.2.5. Tyrone G. Jefferson, Jr.

1.3. ERB members absent:

1.3.1. Monique G. Doucette

1.3.2. Patrice Sentino

1.4. Staff members present:

1.4.1. Dane S. Ciolino, Executive Administrator and General Counsel.

1.4.2. Jordy Stiggs, Ethics Trainer

1.5. Staff members absent:

1.5.1. None.

- 1.6. 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 on January 22, 2024, subject to typos to be corrected.
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 also appeared with various staff members including Mike Laughlin, general counsel for OIG.
 - 3.2. The board accepted his monthly written report (attached).
 - 3.3. Mr. Michel noted that his office has an “ambitious” schedule for 2024.
 - 3.4. His office is working on a fuel-related EMD issue and will publish a report soon. His office will soon publish a report on a S&WB issue relating to money “going down the drain.”
 - 3.5. His office is receiving a number of credible anonymous complaints.
 - 3.6. His office is investigating whether money is being wasted on a cooperative endeavor agreement related to grass cutting in the city. The city paid at least \$30,000 for work that was not done; the money was reimbursed.
 - 3.7. Ms. Calderon asked why the procurement process is so cumbersome within the city. Mr. Michel noted that a new ordinance will funnel all contracts into one location so that all contracts can be found.
 - 3.8. Mr. Michel noted that his office’s productivity is up 400% since he took over the office and that his office has recovered millions of dollars in lost money for the city. He also set forth other qualifications and accomplishments relating to his work for the OIG.
4. *Monthly Report of the Office of Independent Police Monitor.*
 - 4.1. Stella Cziment appeared on behalf of the Office of the Independent Police Monitor. She was accompanied by various staff members, including her counsel Sharonda Williams and Ms. McGowan, the new Deputy Police Monitor.
 - 4.2. The board accepted Ms. Cziment’s monthly report (attached).
 - 4.3. Ms. Cziment noted that her office is working on greater community engagement.
 - 4.4. Ms. Cziment noted that her office has quickly dispelled misinformation about NOPD’s directives about filming bands and homeless encampments. She worked with leadership to quickly post accurate information on social media.

- 4.5. Her office will soon release an informational document on “stunt driving” that will be a resource packet for the public, council, and police department.
- 4.6. Her office issued a statement regarding the cooperative endeavor agreement between the State Attorney General and the Orleans District Attorney’s Office regarding future criminal prosecutions of LSP troopers.
 - 4.6.1. Ms. Calderon clarified that the IPM’s concern is under-prosecution of future LSP offenders (if any) in the future. Ms. Cziment so confirmed.
 - 4.6.2. Ms. Cziment noted that her office simply issued a document expressing concerns about the cooperative agreement. This was to inform and empower the community.
 - 4.6.3. Ms. Cziment will attend a meeting with Judge Morgan regarding the federal consent decree later this week.
 - 4.6.4. Next Monday, Ms. Cziment will present to the City Council committee on criminal justice.
 - 4.6.5. Mr. Jefferson asked about the status of the investigation of an NOPD officer who shoved a juvenile during carnival. She reported that it is currently under investigation.
 - 4.6.6. Ms. Calderon noted that the NOPD does an outstanding job during carnival season. The publicized incident involving the juvenile who was shoved was an anomaly.
 - 4.6.7. Ms. Callia noted that the OIPM has been very proactive and communicative, and that the office is doing an outstanding job.
- 5. *Monthly Report of Ethics Trainer.*
 - 5.1. Mr. Jordy Stiggs did not appear due to illness.
 - 5.2. The board accepted Mr. Stiggs’s monthly written report (attached).
- 6. *Report of the Executive Administrator and General Counsel.*
 - 6.1. Mr. Ciolino presented his written report (attached).
 - 6.2. Mr. Ciolino reported that the ERB has received one new complaint, No. 2024-01.
 - 6.3. Mr. Ciolino and the board discussed getting law students to do pro bono work as QARAC members and the board asked Mr. Ciolino to get the names of interested students.
- 7. *Report on Appointments to ERB and Quality Assurance Review Advisory Committees.*

- 7.1. Mr. Ciolino reported that two ERB positions must be filled. The mayor's office is working on this.
 - 7.2. Mr. Ciolino reported that four (4) Council and Mayoral appointments remain unfilled on QARACs for the IG and the IPM.
 - 7.3. Ms. Callia and Mr. Jefferson will reach out to Valerie Bouldin to arrange a meeting on these appointments.
8. *Discussion and Vote on Salaries of IPM and IG*
 - 8.1. The board discussed the salaries of the IG and IPM.
 - 8.2. Inspector General Ed Michel
 - 8.2.1. Ms. Callia moved to increase Mr. Michel's annual salary to \$255,000 effective March 1, 2024. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the salary increase for Mr. Michel.
 - 8.2.2. The board increased Mr. Michel's salary after considering increases in the cost of living, national salaries for comparable positions, and the increased responsibilities and productivity of Mr. Michel's office.
 - 8.3. Independent Police Monitor Stella Cziment
 - 8.3.1. Ms. Brooks moved to increase Ms. Cziment's annual salary to \$180,000 effective March 1, 2024. Ms. Broussard seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the salary increase for Ms. Cziment.
 - 8.3.2. The board increased Ms. Cziment's salary after considering increases in the cost of living, national salaries for comparable positions, and the increased responsibilities and productivity of Ms. Cziment's office.
9. *Executive Session to Discuss Complaint No. 2024-01.*
 - 9.1. On motion duly seconded, the board unanimously voted at 5:36 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes section 42:17 to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct as to ERB Complaint No. 2024-01.
 - 9.2. On motion duly seconded, the board unanimously voted at 5:42 p.m. to adjourn the executive session and to return to public session
 - 9.3. On motion duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to dismiss Complaint No. 2024-01.
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 5:41 p.m.

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