



Ethics Review Board for the City of New Orleans

**Board Meeting of August 19, 2024, at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, 526
Pine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana**

Minutes

1. *Call to Order.*
 - 1.1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:32 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. Monique G. Doucette
 - 1.2.1.4. Tyrone G. Jefferson, Jr.
 - 1.2.1.5. Sally Richardson
 - 1.2.2. ERB members absent:
 - 1.2.2.1. Patrice Sentino
 - 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 July 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 discussed his office's work on New Orleans East Hospital. The audit was very favorable. There were some minor issues with credit card use as to which his office made recommendations that the hospital followed.
- 3.4. Mr. Michel discussed his office's work relating to Communications Director Tyrell Morris who was in a car accident in a city vehicle that gave rise to related legal issues. His office presented its findings to the Orleans DA who indicted Mr. Morris.
- 3.5. Mr. Michel discussed his office's work relating to the investigation and indictment of NOPD officer Jeffery Vappie.
- 3.6. Mr. Michel noted that his office issued yet another report on S&WB overbilling. The office looked at a sampling of \$15,000,000 of S&WB bills. Customers were overbilled on a yearly basis in an amount totaling nearly a million dollars. Software issues were to blame for the overbilling. The S&WB has begun to address the issue.
- 3.7. Mr. Michel concluded that his office is the most productive it has ever been.
- 3.8. Mr. Doucette followed up with Mr. Michel on the extent of his office's inquiries into S&WB billing irregularities. Mr. Michel responded that his office's work was limited to the sampling of bills discussed above.
- 3.9. Ms. Callia and Ms. Broussard followed up on the recent legislative developments involving S&WB billing issues.

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

- 4.1. Ms. Sziment appeared on behalf of the Office of the Independent Police Monitor.
- 4.2. The board accepted Ms. Sziment's monthly report (attached).
- 4.3. Ms. Sziment apologized for missing the last meeting because of COVID.
- 4.4. Ms. Sziment discussed her office's proposal regarding the Police Community Advisory Board. The proposal is attached. The mayor recently rejected the proposal. The proposal had been supported by NOPD and many other interested parties.

- 4.4.1.1.Mr. Jefferson asked about the relationship between an Oliver Thomas proposal and the OIPM proposal. Mr. Cziment responded that she worked with Mr. Thomas about the proposal and expressed concern about creating a board that would conduct investigations and impose discipline. This would cause overlapping investigations and confusion.
- 4.4.1.2.Ms. Callia asked whether Mr. Thomas has reviewed the OIPM proposal. Ms. Sziment responded that he has not yet done so.
- 4.4.1.3.Ms. Doucette asked whether there would be any appeal or reconsideration of the mayor's rejection. Ms. Sziment responded that there would not be any such appeal or reconsideration.
- 4.4.2. Ms. Cziment reported that her office has hired two new staff members.
- 4.4.3. Ms. Cziment reported that her office's records will soon be in a searchable database on the Internet.
- 4.4.4. Ms. Cziment noted that she is trying to get NOPD to inform PIB complainants as their complaints go through the system.
- 4.4.5. Ms. Cziment reported that the superintendent was involved in a car accident that her office was not involved in monitoring.
- 4.4.6. Ms. Cziment noted that she is doing a radio show about police monitoring and the NOPD. This is an effort to humanize the participants of the policing process.

5. *Monthly Report of the Ethics Trainer*

- 5.1. Jordy Stiggs appeared.
- 5.2. The board accepted Mr. Stiggs's monthly report (attached).
- 5.3. Mr. Stiggs reminded the board about training videos that the board members need to watch before year end.
- 5.4. Mr. Stiggs reported that the City's IT department is assisting with the ERB's website redesign.
 - 5.4.1. The IT department is working with the ERB to redesign the site.
 - 5.4.2. The IT department is making navigation to the ERB website easier.
 - 5.4.3. The website will migrate over to nola.gov from GoDaddy.
- 5.5. Mr. Stiggs reported that YouTube will host the ERB's training videos. He hopes to have approximately 15 videos by year end. As of today, there have been 2 views of the video.
- 5.6. Mr. Stiggs reported on his attendance at a CORE training conference in Phoenix in September.

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 been no complaints received since the last board meeting.
- 6.3. Mr. Ciolino reported that one ERB position must be filled. The mayor's office is working on this.
- 6.4. 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 4:30 pm. pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes section 42:17(A)(1) to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a person.
- 7.2. After a motion, duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to return to general session at 5:52 p.m.

8. *Request to Increase Pay to Outside Investigator*
 - 8.1. Discussion of request from Transcendent Law Group for a payment in the amount of \$7,223.55 in addition to the \$15,000.00 that it has already been paid. (Note that professional services contracts over \$15,000.00 require the competitive selection process established by executive order.)
 - 8.2. The board deferred ruling on this and instructed the general counsel to consult with the City Attorney's Office.
9. *Adjournment.*
 - 9.1. A motion was made to adjourn the ERB meeting.
 - 9.2. The motion was seconded.
 - 9.3. The ERB unanimously voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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