



## **Ethics Review Board for the City of New Orleans**

**Board Meeting of September 9, 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. Tyrone G. Jefferson, Jr.
      - 1.2.1.4. Sally Richardson
      - 1.2.1.5. Patrice Sentino
    - 1.2.2. ERB members absent:
      - 1.2.2.1. Monique G. Doucette
    - 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 August 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 announced and introduced his new public information officer.
  - 3.4. Mr. Michel reported on his office's productivity. He noted that his office has produced 17 reports last year and will produce more this year.
  - 3.5. Mr. Michel reported on the number of city employees and contractors who have been prosecuted, who have resigned, or who have been disciplined for misconduct uncovered by his office.
  - 3.6. Mr. Michel introduced a new OIG employee. He is a former FBI agent who was responsible for all training at the FBI Academy and other tasks. After retiring, he was an instructor at USL and now is with OIG.
  - 3.7. Ali Broyles reported on a new report being released on details being worked by the OPSO during carnival season.
  - 3.8. Patrice Rose reported on a new investigation regarding the Department of Property Management and its handling of HVAC systems. She also noted that her department is doing a report on Hexagon software issues and a loan that was taken out to pay for the software.
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 explained to the board what her office does during tropical storms. She and an assistant will be embedded with NOPD during the storm response. The rest of her team will evacuate if necessary. Her office will be closed on Wednesday, the expected day of landfall for Hurricane Francine.
  - 4.4. Ms. Sziment reported on an officer-involved shooting last week. Her office interviewed witnesses and reviewed camera footage. At this time, the shooting appears to be justified.
  - 4.5. Ms. Sziment reported on promotions at NOPD and on her office's monitoring of the promotion process.
  - 4.6. Ms. Sziment noted that she testified at a trial in federal court in the Vicknair case, which involved Officer Vicknair's personal relationship with the child victim of a

rape that later became a sexual relationship. The plaintiff prevailed and recovered more than \$1,000,000 because the NOPD did not properly supervise Officer Vicknair.

- 4.7. Ms. Sziment noted that her podcast, The Monitor's Mike, is going well. They humanize the officers for the public. The show airs on Fridays at noon.
- 4.8. Ms. Sziment is meeting with Councilman Thomas's office about a her office's PCAB proposal and a possible civilian oversight board that others have discussed.
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 noted that the new website is being designed and will be published soon. Training for Mr. Stiggs and Mr. Ciolino is scheduled for later this week if Hurricane Francine does not cause any issues.
  - 5.5. Mr. Stiggs reported that he has cancelled his training session due to credit card approval issues in the Finance Department. We hope to resolve this issue for Mr. Stiggs to travel in May 2025.
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 4:24 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 4:42 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 unanimously voted to deny the request after considering advice from the City Attorney's Office regarding the ordinances governing no-bid professional contracts.

9. *Discussion of Locations of Future Meetings*

- 9.1. Mr. Ciolino will check with City Hall regarding availability of council chambers.
- 9.2. Mr. Jefferson will look into other locations used by nonprofit organizations in Orleans Parish.
- 9.3. This issue will be on the agenda for next board meeting.

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 4:53 p.m.

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