



Ethics Review Board for the City of New Orleans

**Board Meeting of November 11, 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 4:04 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. Sally Richardson
 - 1.2.1.4. Patrice Sentino
 - 1.2.2. ERB members absent:
 - 1.2.2.1. Monique G. Doucette
 - 1.2.2.2. Tyrone G. Jefferson, Jr.
 - 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 October 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 noted that his office recently attended a City Council meeting regarding the budget and the office's recent accomplishments. He noted that the Council was complementary of his office's work. He also noted that the Council was interested in further work on the use of city funds by all agencies including by the OPSO.
 - 3.4. Mr. Michel highlighted his office's report regarding the Dept. of Public Works and its maintenance of traffic signals. Many of the issues are rooted in personnel and staffing shortages, inventory management, and other issues.
 - 3.5. Mr. Michel noted that his office will soon release a report regarding OPSO details.

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.
 - 4.2. The board accepted Ms. Cziment's monthly report (attached).
 - 4.3. The office reported that it has been involved in many discussions regarding the federal consent decree during the past few months. The hope is that the city will soon move into a sustainment period under the decree.
 - 4.4. The office reported that it hosted a public forum with Chief Kirkpatrick. The office put questions to the Chief and she answered them. Then the public was allowed an opportunity to ask questions. The session was broadcast on WBLK.
 - 4.5. The office reported on the mediation training program the office conducted last month. The office celebrated 10 years of mediations.
 - 4.6. The office reported on its on-going radio show, including participation by STAR and the Innocence Project and Deputy Chief Gerston. Comments on the consent decree will be shared with Judge Morgan.
 - 4.7. The office presented to the Budget Committee this month.
 - 4.8. Ms. Callia commented that budgeting issues will be presented when the sustainment period begins. The office assured the ERB that it would inform the ERB of any developments in this regard.

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 showed the board the new city-based website that was redesigned by the IT department. He highlighted the ethics training program content on the site. He will continue to work on the site to make it more user friendly and educational.

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

- 6.1. Mr. Ciolino presented his monthly report (attached).
- 6.2. Mr. Ciolino reported that the ERB has received two complaints since the last board meeting.
- 6.3. Mr. Ciolino reported that one ERB position (Dillard) must be filled. The mayor's office is working on this and has received nominations.
- 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 and pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes section 42:17(A)(4) to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct, namely, ERB Complaint No. 2023-02.
- 7.2. After a motion, duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to return to general session at 4:38 p.m.
- 7.3. After a motion, duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to dismiss ERB Complaint 2023-02. The complaint presented issues relating to an office supervised by the ERB. Through public contract K24-233, the ERB hired a law firm, Transcendent Law Group (TLG), to conduct an investigation into the allegations. Over the course of several months, TLG interviewed numerous employees of the subject office. After those interviews were completed, TLG orally reported its findings to the ERB in executive session. After further investigation by the ERB, the ERB discussed the complaint in executive session. The board chair has discussed the board's employment-related concerns with the

individual who was the subject of the investigation. The board will issue a press release today reporting the foregoing.

8. *Discussion of Locations of Future Meetings*

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

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 5:18 p.m.

* END *