



Ethics Review Board for the City of New Orleans

Board Meeting of February 10, 2025, 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 3:36 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. Patrice Sentino
 - 1.2.2. ERB members absent:
 - 1.2.2.1. 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 December 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. Ms. Broyles reported on a recent investigation regarding saving the City \$2.5 million by "checking the math" on a contract with a contractor. The matter took little effort, but reaped large rewards.
 - 3.4. Mr. Michel discussed issues with the "low barrier" shelter for homeless people. The OIG will evaluate whether the city is adequately running the facility.
 - 3.5. Mr. Michel noted his office prepared a report for the federal NOPD monitor regarding whether there were any irregularities in the testing for promotions at NOPD.
 - 3.6. Mr. Michel noted that his office continues to work on "brass thefts" at S&WB to recoup money for the city. These thefts have caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in losses.
 - 3.7. Mr. Michel noted that his office has issued 17 formal reports, letters or investigations. His office has recovered many millions of dollars. His office has achieved a 739% return on the city's investment in the OIG.
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. Kirshell Williams, DPM, appeared..
 - 4.2. The board accepted Ms. Sziment's monthly report (attached).
 - 4.3. Kirshell Williams, Deputy Police Monitor, delivered the report for the office.
 - 4.4. Stella Sziment was on call for the Bourbon Street terrorist attack. She was on scene most of the day.
 - 4.4.1. On scene, OIPM recommended a family gathering area but NOPD did not accept the recommendation. OIPM hopes this will be done for future events.
 - 4.4.2. OIPM has checked in with officers involved since then.
 - 4.5. The federal court has transitioned NOPD to the "sustainment period" under the consent decree. The city filed a late motion to terminate the consent decree, which was denied. The city is now appealing it.

- 4.5.1. The focus now shifts to NOPD to demonstrate that it can “do this on its own” without federal monitoring.
 - 4.5.2. The OIPM will now take on a greater role in interacting with the NOPD for audits to assure good police practices during the 2-year sustainment period.
 - 4.6. The OIPM has issued its work plan for 2025 which is part of the submissions for today’s meeting.
 - 4.7. The OIPM continues to promote its “Monitor’s Mike” podcast. This month it focused on crime survivors and the aftermath of the Bourbon Street terror attack.
 - 4.8. Ms. Doucette asked why mediation numbers are “up.” The OIPM does not know, but suspects that NOPD has promoted mediation among its officers.
5. *Monthly Report of the Ethics Trainer*
- 5.1. Jordy Stiggs attended the meeting and presented his monthly report.
 - 5.2. The board accepted Mr. Stiggs’s monthly report (attached).
 - 5.3. Mr. Stiggs reported that 548 people attended his ethics training classes during 2024. He thanked the HR managers for facilitating these sessions.
 - 5.4. Mr. Stiggs is now regularly presenting to city employees who are eligible for promotions.
 - 5.5. Mr. Stiggs will be going to the training conference he missed last year.
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. Mr. Ciolino reported that one ERB position (Dillard) must be filled. The mayor’s office is working on this and has received nominations. The mayor’s office is also filling the “at large” position vacated by Tyrone Jefferson.
 - 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 4:03 p.m. (1) pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes section 42:17(A)(4) to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct, namely, ERB Complaint No. 2024-04, and (2) 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 4:44 p.m.

8. *Resolution of Complaint 2024-04*

- 8.1. The OIG investigated Complaint 2024-04 after referral from the ERB during the December board meeting. Mr. Michel reported in executive session regarding the findings of his office's investigation.
- 8.2. After a motion, duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to dismiss ERB Complaint 2024-04. The board dismissed the complaint for lack of a factual basis for the allegations of nepotism within NORD.

9. *Discussion of Appointment or Reappointment of Inspector General*

- 9.1. After discussion, the board asked Ms. Broussard to put on the agenda for next meeting "Reappointment of Ed Michel as Inspector General." There will be no other items on the agenda.

10. *Discussion of Locations of Future Meetings*

- 10.1. Mr. Ciolino will check with City Hall regarding availability of council chambers.
- 10.2. Mr. Ciolino will consult with Ms. Broussard on this.

11. *Adjournment.*

- 11.1. A motion was made to adjourn the ERB meeting.
- 11.2. The motion was seconded.
- 11.3. The ERB unanimously voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

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