

The Ethics Review Board
City of New Orleans

Tuesday, October 23, 2007
10:30 a.m.

Xavier University New Orleans, University Center

Present: Rev. Kevin Wildes, Chair, Rev. Cornelius Tilton, Vice Chair, Elizabeth Nalty, Secretary, Dean Winston Brown, Professor Kathryn Lorio, and Dr. Beverly Favre

Excused: Mrs. Leah Chase

Guests: Robert A. Cerasoli, Inspector General, Professor David Marcello of the Tulane Public Law Center, Gail Howard, Executive Assistant to Rev. Kevin Wildes.

Fr. Wildes called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Winston Brown moved to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2007 meeting, Elizabeth Nalty seconded – motion passed.

It was announced that all OIG and ERB budget submissions have been made in a timely manner to Cary Grant of the City of New Orleans. The budget hearings for the Office of Inspector General and the Ethics Review Board are scheduled for November 26 before the City Council. It was suggested that all available ERB members attend the City Council Budget Hearings on November 26.

Kathryn Lorio stated that the drafting of the policies and procedures is ongoing, having undergone a number of reviews and revisions. Dr. Lorio expressed appreciation for the ongoing work of David Marcello. There may be a draft for the board to review at the November 27, 2007 meeting of the ERB.

Winston Brown stated that the governor-elect has placed ethics on the top of his agenda. Rev. Wildes stated that he has asked Tommy Screen, Executive Assistant for Government Relations at Loyola University, to schedule a meeting with the governor-elect's staff to discuss the work of the ERB and OIG.

David Marcello stated that since ethics is a high priority, the ERB should present legislation in February or March to propose changes in state laws that would be supportive of the ERB and OIG.

Rev. Wildes stated that he met with Hank Perret of the State Ethics Board to let him know about the work of the ERB, and its desire to establish a working relationship with the State Ethics Board. The meeting was positive and supportive and opened avenues of communication to work together in support of each other.

Discussion ensued regarding various issues pertaining to legal counsel for the ERB and OIG, operational independence of the offices, inquiries made to the ERB and concern for privacy issues and frivolous complaints. Issues relating to anonymous complaints and whistleblower protection were also discussed. The possible need for professional liability insurance and subpoena power were discussed as well. All of the above issues will be addressed in future meetings regarding policies and procedures and in proposed legislation.

Elizabeth Nalty mentioned the forum to be presented by Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans and other organizations scheduled for November 27 at 7:00 p.m. in Nunemaker Hall at Loyola University. All ERB members were invited to attend.

There being no further business, Kathy Lorio moved to adjourn, seconded by Elizabeth Nalty – motion passed.