

The Ethics Review Board
City of New Orleans

Tuesday, June 24, 2008
10:30 a.m.

Loyola University, Danna Student Center, Audubon Room

- Present: Rev. Kevin Wildes, S. J., 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 Cerasoli, IG, Leonard Odom, OIG, Councilman Arnie Fielkow, Councilman James Carter, Councilwoman Shelley Midura, Gail Howard, Executive Assistant to Rev. Kevin Wildes, S.J, David Marcello, Jill Duchene, Executive Director to ERB, and Janet Werkman, General Counsel to ERB
- Media: Times-Picayune, WWL-TV, WWL Radio, WRNO Radio, AP News, ABC 26, WGNO Fox 8, WDSU Chnl. 6, and Baton Rouge Advocate

Rev. Wildes called the meeting to order at 10:48 a.m.

Rev. Tilton noted that minutes from the May 27, 2008 meeting should be revised to accurately reflect discussion concerning the offering of OIG jobs locally. The discussion was already in progress when Danatus King, Sr. presented his comments to the board. The minutes suggested Danatus King, Sr. introduced the subject and will be modified.

Rev. Tilton moved to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2008 meeting with the necessary changes, Elizabeth Nalty seconded – motion passed.

Member posed question on the possibility of moving the agenda item, election of officers, to the July meeting. Rev. Tilton moved to delay officer elections and Winston Brown seconded – motion passed.

Board discussed concerns over expiration of member terms. David Marcello and Robert Cerasoli confirmed that members may remain on board past their expiration until the Mayor appoints replacement members.

Robert Cerasoli gave an update on the October 4th, 2008 charter change. There are four parts to the charter amendment, word change pertaining to the creation of OIG from “may” to “shall,” specified OIG functions, dedicated revenue source of three-quarters of one percent, creation of independent police monitor to be housed in OIG, and the right to provide for special counsel.

Robert Cerasoli gave an update on OIG staffing. Currently, the office has seven filled positions and two more employees are expected to arrive by July 10th. He commented on the difficulty of persons making their way through the hiring process. The process is time consuming as well as difficult. However, the process ensures the hiring of highly qualified individuals.

Board held discussion about the development of an ethics education program. All agreed program is necessary to be proactive in the city and the board must explore the different tools available to develop such a program.

Board stayed in session for press conference. Rev. Wildes welcomed guests, gave overview of the board's progress over the past year and a half, and gave special thanks those instrumental in the board's development. Mr. Cerasoli gave an overview of the OIG's progress over the past nine months and acknowledged the efforts and assistance from city council members, civic leaders, Civil Service, and many others. There was opportunity to answer guests' questions. Then the Ethics Review Board and the Office of Inspector General presented their first Annual Report to present members of the City Council and civic leaders.

Rev. Wildes moved to adjourn the meeting, Rev. Tilton seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.