

The Ethics Review Board
City of New Orleans

Tuesday, August 26, 2008
10:30 a.m.

Xavier University New Orleans, Student Center, Room 205

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

Excused: Mrs. Leah Chase and Dr. Beverly Favre

Guests: Robert Cerasoli, IG, Leonard Odom, OIG, Marvin Doyal, OIG, Neely
Moody, OIG, David Marcello, and Jill Duchene, Executive Director to
ERB

Rev. Wildes called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Winston Brown moved to approve June 24, 2008 meeting. Rev. Tilton seconded – motion passed.

Winston Brown moved to maintain current Ethics Review Board officers for the 2008-2009 term. Kathryn Lorio seconded – motion passed. Rev. Kevin Wildes, S.J. will continue serving as Chair, Rev. Cornelius Tilton will continue serving as Vice Chair, and Elizabeth Nalty will continue serving as Secretary.

Inspector General Robert Cerasoli gave an update on the progress of the Office of Inspector General. The office expects to staff fifteen people by the end of August. The hiring process continues to take time. Even with the low numbers, the office is working in a full-fledged mode. The office has begun working on audits and investigations. Despite continuing difficulties, for which no one person is at fault, the office is moving forward. The Office of Inspector General is working on a joint venture with Paul Pastorek with the Recovery School District to possibly create an Inspector General function in the school system. This function would be funded by the RSD. Len Odom briefly mentioned the office's involvement in brake tag investigation which they closed. He commented that the CAO's quick response to the office showed acknowledgement of the office's authority. Robert Cerasoli stated that the office may present the City Council with the Green and Yellow books, standards of operation under which the office acts, to act as the office's rules of operation. Mr. Cerasoli also gave an update of the office's computer situation. The office received all computers and is now waiting for the system to be installed. Sparkhound, a contractor on State Contract will complete all installation of computers, servers, software, etc. Elizabeth Nalty asked how the Ethics Review Board can help the Office of Inspector General. The Inspector General stated that the OIG will need to assist the ERB. The most important task facing the ERB is the approval of rules. Soon the ERB may want to get involved with denial of access to public documents

requests. Kathryn Lorio asked Mr. Cerasoli how the ERB may help make people aware of the October 4th vote for the charter change. Mr. Cerasoli stated that members may help by just discussing the ballot with people. He stated that he is working with different organizations and Council members to promote the ballot question. Mr. Cerasoli then discussed the importance of the addition of the Police Monitor. He also stated that the OIG has the authority to manage many of the Police Monitor functions. The Police Monitor employees will be selected through a committee. Rev. Tilton asked Mr. Cerasoli if the OIG will be able to disclose to the ERB the number of calls received monthly. Mr. Cerasoli stated the OIG may give the ERB the number of calls received. Len Odom stated that once computers are set up, the office will have a case management tracking system that will maintain records of the number of cases and how each is handled.

The board briefly discussed their new membership to COGEL and the benefits it may expect from such a membership. Robert Cerasoli mentioned that the organization has a conference every year and it may be advantageous for members of the board to attend.

David Marcello gave information on a National Conference of State Legislatures. There is a Technology Meets Ethics Training online training program available. Mr. Marcello stated that Elizabeth Nalty had a good question about how the Ethics Review Board may help the Office of Inspector General. According to Mr. Marcello, ERB already has a role in the landscape in assisting the OIG by providing employees, Janet Werkman, Legal Counsel and Jill Duchene, Executive Director. The ERB as soon as it is ready, it may lend its weight to public records requests. A lack of response to public records requests is an ethical issue. The board may also begin responding to discrimination complaints. The ERB should make additions to the City Ethics Code. Kathryn Lorio mentioned providing ethics training to high schools would be beneficial to the city by training future employees early on. Rev. Wildes discussed Honor Code Stop. Once we develop the substance of a program the program may be placed online and made available to anyone.

Elizabeth Nalty moved to adjourn. Kathryn Lorio seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.