

The Ethics Review Board
City of New Orleans

Tuesday, January 27, 2009
10:30 a.m.
Loyola University New Orleans
Danna Student Center, Octavia I

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

Excused: Rev. Cornelius Tilton, Vice Chair, Mrs. Leah Chase and Dr. Beverly Favre

Guests: Robert Cerasoli, IG, David Marcello, Leonard Odom, OIG, Jerry Carlisle, OIG, Janet Werkman, OIG, and Jill Poutré, Executive Director to ERB

Rev. Kevin Wildes called the meeting to order at 10:41 a.m.

Elizabeth Nalty moved to adopt the minutes from the December 16, 2008 meeting. Kathryn Lorio seconded – motion passed.

Rev. Kevin Wildes announced the Ethics Review Board and the Office of Inspector General will need to submit an annual report in March. Rev. Wildes and Jill Poutré will work on creating a draft report for the board to look over at the February meeting. Wildes expressed his desire to have the reports available electronically as well as distributing hard copies. Kathryn Lorio circulated copies of Philadelphia's Board of Ethic's annual report to serve as an example for the New Orleans Ethics Review Board's annual report.

Janet Werkman provided a draft for the ERB and OIG Request for Proposal (RFP) procedures. Executive Order CRN 08-01, a policy pertaining to the competitive selection procedures for professional service contracts, does not apply to the ERB or OIG. Rev. Wildes proposed combining the Legal Counsel services and the Ethics Education services into one RFP. Mrs. Werkman provided the board with a draft RFP including both services and the board will vote on the proposed RFP procedures and the education and counsel RFP. One member mentioned that the ethics commissions from Philadelphia, Atlanta, and Miami-Dade use in-house employees to conduct their ethics education because employees know their organizations and assist in forming relationships between the organizations and the city employees.

Rev. Wildes formed a subcommittee to write a formal review of Inspector General Robert Cerasoli including Rev. Kevin Wildes, Betsy Nalty, and Winston Brown. The subcommittee will report to the entire board at the next meeting.

The ERB and OIG hotline will go live once the OIG has at least fifteen employees who can manage it. Jill Poutré presented a sample of the ERB and OIG hotline flyer. Elizabeth

Nalty asked if the flyers may be distributed to volunteer organizations and Winston Brown suggested posting a public notice in the local newspapers. Mrs. Poutré stated the posters and flyers should be handed out to as many organizations as possible, volunteer organizations and newspapers will be included. Posters will be distributed to department heads within City Hall and they will be required to post them in all meeting rooms. Jill Poutré also presented a summary of last year's complaint calls to the Office of Inspector General. The office received an average of twenty-two (22) calls a month. The office received sixty-four (64) calls in August, the most calls received in one month. The peak in August is likely due to the increased publicity surrounding the October 4 charter amendment vote.

The Police Monitor has three positions described in Article XIII, Sec. 2-1121 of the City Code of Ordinances; police monitor, deputy police monitor, and an independent executive director of community relations. A search committee has been formed to carry out a national search for the police monitor. The salaries for the three police monitor positions will be taken out of the OIG's budget. Robert Cerasoli stated that the committee should advertise with NACOLE, the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement. Rev. Wildes said that the job descriptions need to be approved by the Civil Service Commission before conducting a search.

Mr. Cerasoli gave an update on the Office of Inspector General's staffing, budget, capital expenditures, and computer installation progress. Winston Brown asked if a meeting should be arranged with the administration to reach a common ground and end some of the animosity. Rev. Wildes said the board may want to meet with the mayor to discuss the ERB's ethics education plans and how the board can coordinate with the city. Mr. Brown said if the mayor and the ERB and OIG could work together it would be an opportunity for the mayor to leave a legacy behind.

Elizabeth Nalty moved to adjourn. Winston Brown seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.