

The Ethics Review Board  
City of New Orleans

Tuesday, March 24, 2009  
10:30 a.m.

Loyola University New Orleans  
Danna Student Center, Octavia I

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

Guests: Leonard Odom, Interim IG; Janet Werkman, OIG; Neely Moody, OIG;  
Hugh Fox, OIG; and Jill Poutré, Executive Director to ERB

Rev. Kevin Wildes called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m.

Kathryn Lorio moved to adopt the minutes from the February 17, 2009 meeting. Winston Brown seconded – motion passed.

Rev. Wildes gave a brief update on the national inspector general search announcing that the position announcement was posted and that the application deadline was quickly approaching. He mentioned board may want to meet in April in Executive Session to discuss the applicant pool. The board agreed to schedule the meeting after Easter.

The ERB annual report draft was distributed to the board members. Jill Poutré stated that the Office of Inspector General's annual report and Ethics Review Board's annual report will be distributed together. Leonard Odom stated that the Office of Inspector General was planning to complete the OIG report by Friday and combine it with the ERB report. Rev. Wildes suggested the board vote on approving the annual report, but keep it open to revisions. Rev. Wildes moved to approve the ERB annual report, Rev. Tilton seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

During the February 17, 2009 ERB meeting, a committee was formed to discuss the possibility of bringing board members and executive directors from nearby ethics commissions to New Orleans to share their knowledge and experience with the ERB. Poutré presented the committee's recommendation to invite Erica Wright, a Commission Member with the Miami-Dade Ethics Commission, and Virginia Looney, the Ethics Officer for the Atlanta Board of Ethics. Rev. Tilton stated that these two women will be able to share "both sides of the coin" as one has experience as a board member and the other an employee. Rev. Tilton moved to approve the committee's recommendation and Rev. Wildes seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

Rev. Wildes asked Jill Poutré to update the board on the legal counsel search. Mrs. Poutré distributed a budget summary to the Ethics Review Board showing that there was over \$133,000 available in the 2009 budget for the hiring additional and that in 2010 over

\$166,000 would be available. She stated that she listed three possible salary grades from which the board may choose. The Ethics Review Board and the Office of Inspector General share annual dedicated funding. One member asked how the sum of \$300,000 was decided upon as the budget for the ERB. Rev. Wildes stated that the City Council decided upon the \$300,000 allocation for 2008 and for 2009. Leonard Odom said the \$300,000 is just a base allocation in addition to it the OIG gives over \$100,000 through in-kind contributions listed on the last two pages of the budget summary. Rev. Tilton mentioned that some of these questions could be hammered out by working on a cooperative endeavor agreement. According to Rev. Wildes, David Marcello has already begun working on a CEA. Mr. Brown said it would be helpful to create a timetable for the creation and implementation of these tasks. Rev. Wildes asked for volunteers to serve on a subcommittee to work on the job description along with Jill Poutré. Dr. Favre, Rev. Tilton, and Mrs. Lorio volunteered and requested a meeting be set up by Poutré in April.

Rev. Wildes asked for an update from Leonard Odom on the Office of Inspector General. Odom stated that the OIG is going to open the Civil Service position for an Attorney IV for a General Council which will leave open growth opportunity. He said the annual report will be finalized no later than Friday and will be available to go out on March 31, 2009. Three positions and salaries for the Police Monitor were approved by Civil Service and the positions will be opened once the final designees for the hiring committee are appointed and hold their initial meeting. The Interim Inspector General announced that the OIG currently has a staff of 24 people and has hired 10 in the last 6 weeks and he hopes to have the office fully staffed by July. One board member asked how the OIG's relationship with the police department was doing. Leonard Odom answered that the OIG still has a very successful relationship and constantly receives positive reports from those working with the department. Cell phones and vehicles were purchased for the OIG and a temporary website was created, NOLAOIG.org, which is currently under construction and will be finalized in the very near future.

Rev. Tilton asked if the April ERB meeting could be moved the third Tuesday of the month. All members agreed and Jill Poutré was asked to arrange the meeting.

Elizabeth Nalty moved to adjourn. Rev. Tilton seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.