

The Ethics Review Board
City of New Orleans

Tuesday, April 21, 2009
10:30 A.M.
Loyola University New Orleans
Danna Student Center, Claiborne I

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

Excused: Dr. Beverly Favre and Dean Winston Brown

Guests: David Marcello, Executive Director to the Tulane Public Law Center;
Leonard Odom, Interim IG; Janet Werkman, OIG; Hugh Fox, OIG; Sam
Stoute, OIG; and Jill Poutré, Executive Director to ERB

Rev. Kevin Wildes called the meeting to order at 10:53 A.M.

Elizabeth Nalty moved to adopt the minutes from the March 24, 2009 meeting. Rev.
Cornelius Tilton seconded – motion passed.

Rev. Kevin Wildes moved that the ERB go into Executive Session for the purpose of
discussing the qualifications of candidates for the position of Inspector General. Rev.
Tilton seconded the motion. Motion passed. The ERB proceeded into Executive Session
at 10:54 A.M.

The ERB reconvened in public session at 11:28 A.M.

Rev. Wildes asked David Marcello to give an overview of the proposed ordinance
changes. David Marcello explained that the board may want to consider several changes
to Ordinance Section 2-1120, Office of Inspector General. According to Mr. Marcello,
the ordinance should be amended to reflect the changes in the Home Rules Charter which
the citizens of New Orleans voted to amend on the October 4, 2008. He also proposed
addressing inspector general eligibility. Currently the ordinance does not restrict who the
Ethics Review Board may hire if the board chose to overrule the Chair's interim inspector
general appointment and may be changed to establish the same requirements with which
the Chair must abide in selecting an interim inspector general. After the initial inspector
general search in 2007, the ordinance was revised to incorporate additional requirements
for future inspector general candidates. Due to the ineligibility of many highly qualified
candidates, David Marcello suggested the board reduce the four (4) year provisions to a
one (1) year provision relating to separation from the city and state employment, elected
positions, and the four (4) year City of New Orleans Office of Inspector General
exception to the exclusion of New Orleans' employees. Another extremely restrictive
requirement the board may want to consider changing is the professional certification,
Certified Inspector General. Rather than eliminating, Marcello suggested relocating the

certification to the highly preferred characteristic section. Rev. Tilton suggested including an “or” in the highly preferred characteristics section to reflect highly qualified candidates may display any number of the preferred characteristics. Additionally, Marcello recommended a revision to the ordinance requiring the Office of Inspector General annually present the budget to the ERB for review, revision, and approval prior to submitting the budget to the Chief Administrative Officer. Lastly, David Marcello stated the wording for the “30 working day” period provided for the review of an OIG report should be changed to a “30 day” period. Elizabeth Nalty moved that the Chair send a letter to the City Council and the Mayor outlining the ordinance revisions, Kathryn Lorio seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

Rev. Kevin Wildes asked if there was anything to report on the legal counsel position. Jill Poutré stated that the committee planned on meeting soon to discuss the possible positions and requirements.

Rev. Wildes asked Interim Inspector General Leonard Odom if he had any updates for the ERB. Mr. Odom announced the OIG is currently staffed by twenty-four (24) employees. He introduced Sam Stoute, the chief of personnel. Then he mentioned the computer system would be completed by Friday. Odom stated he was drafting the Police Monitor position announcement and he has already received several resumes. Once the Police Monitor positions are filled, he will focus on filling the legal counsel position. The OIG will hire a legal counsel under the Civil Service classified Attorney IV position. Elizabeth Nalty asked Leonard Odom if he had a time frame on the hiring of the Police Monitor. He answered that the committee must hold a meeting to determine the time frame and that he had not yet received Superintendent Riley’s appointment. Also, he discussed the venues he planned on using to disperse the announcement, Loyola’s media list and CareerBuilder. One member asked if one or two of the police monitor positions could be combined with other OIG positions. Mr. Odom stated that the Director of Community Affairs will be able to handle the OIG outreach into the community. Another member asked if Mr. Odom planned on asking for more money in the future to fund the police monitor function. According to Odom, Robert Cerasoli agreed to incur the cost of the function. Odom also mentioned that he had arranged a meeting with Dr. Hatfield and the department heads to discuss the purpose of the Office of Inspector General and to discuss who the OIG is and what the OIG does.

There being no further business to discuss, Kathryn Lorio moved to adjourn, Elizabeth Nalty seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:52 A.M.