

The Ethics Review Board
City of New Orleans

Tuesday, May 26, 2009
10:00 A.M.
Southern University New Orleans
Building 43

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

Excused: Dean Winston Brown and Mrs. Leah Chase

Guests: David Marcello, Executive Director to the Tulane Public Law Center;
Leonard Odom, Interim IG; Janet Werkman, OIG; David Westerling,
OIG; Hugh Fox, OIG; Sam Stoute, OIG; Laura East, OIG; Suzi Brown,
OIG; Eric Wright, Miami Dade Ethics Commissioner; and Jill Poutré,
Executive Director to ERB

Rev. Kevin Wildes called the meeting to order at 10:27 A.M.

Elizabeth Nalty moved to adopt the minutes from the April 21, 2009 meeting. Rev.
Cornelius Tilton seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

Rev. Kevin Wildes introduced David Marcello to discuss the next agenda item, House
Bill 506 Report. David Marcello reported that Rev. Wildes, two members of the Office of
Inspector General, and himself went to the state legislature in Baton Rouge last week at
which time the house bill was voted on. The bill was created in response to the October
4th charter amendment and creates authority at the local level for local ethics entities and
offices of inspectors general to receive control of their respective entity's funds. The City
Council would still need to pass an ordinance before Ethics Review Board or Office of
Inspector General is able to receive control of its office's funds. Marcello stated that the
bill is midway through the process.

Rev. Cornelius Tilton informed the ERB that the Legal Counsel Selection Committee
planned to meet later in the week to finalize the job requirements and job description to
include General Counsel and Ethics Education. Tilton stated that the board may want to
consider giving the committee the authority to open the position which would allow the
position to be opened before the ERB's next meeting. He said the committee would still
send the position information to all board members before opening the position. Rev.
Tilton made a motion for the board to give the Legal Counsel Selection Committee the
authority to open the Legal Counsel position. Rev. Wildes seconded, all were in favor –
motion passed.

Rev. Kevin Wildes asked the Interim Inspector General to give an update on the Office of Inspector General. Mr. Leonard Odom stated that the office has 24 employees and will have one more joining the office on June 1st. He said the announcement for the Police Monitor went out and the application deadline is May 31. The hiring committee already met once and plans to meet again in June. He said the office has complete three manuals, one for each division and the next phase is to begin teaching. He informed the board the Inspections and Evaluations division job descriptions are in the drafting process and only need fine tuning. The office sent eleven employees to training this month for interview and interrogation with the Reid Institute. Odom stated the Association of Inspectors General just completed an Inspectors General conference in Orlando and he was able to spend time with the IG overseeing the stimulus act. The stimulus act does not provide for local and state IGs and IGs are working to amend to prevent mass corruption and fraud. An IG task force was established to deal with the stimulus act. He said on the local front all divisions are coming into place and soon everyone will see the results of the office's actions. Hugh Fox announced that the website would be up by the end of the day. Rev. Tilton asked Mr. Odom how many people are members of the AIG. Odom responded that there are 642 members and that membership renewal began May 1 and is open to national, federal, state, and local inspectors general.

Rev. Tilton moved that the board enter into executive session to discuss Inspector General applicants' qualifications. Kathryn Lorio seconded, all were in favor – motion passed. Ethics Review Board entered into executive session at 10:44 A.M.

Kathryn Lorio moved that the board reconvene from executive session. Rev. Tilton seconded – motion passed. The board reconvened at 11:57 A.M.

Due to many board members travelling, Rev. Tilton moved that the board dispense with the June and July regular meetings and schedule the next meeting for August 25. Dr. Beverly Favre seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

On the subject of the inspector general search, Rev. Tilton stated that being ineligible is far from unqualified. He said that all applicants for the inspector general position were ineligible. Tilton moved to reopen that application search and extend it until July 31, 2009. Elizabeth Nalty seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

Rev. Kevin Wildes introduced Erica Wright, a guest speaker from the Miami-Dade Ethics Commission where Ms. Wright is a commissioner. Ms. Wright came to New Orleans to discuss the history behind the Miami-Dade Ethics Commission and to share her experience. Erica Wright discussed her commission's enabling legislation, employee organizational setup and basic descriptions of duties, and the commission's relationship with the Miami-Dade Office of Inspector General.

There being no further business to discuss, Kathryn Lorio moved to adjourn, Elizabeth Nalty seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 1:10 P.M.