



Ethics Review Board for the City of New Orleans

Board Meeting of June 12, 2023, at 3:30 P.M. in New Orleans City Council Chambers

Minutes

1. *Call to Order.*
 - 1.1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
 - 1.2. ERB members present:
 - 1.2.1. Dawn Broussard
 - 1.2.2. Holly Callia, Chair.
 - 1.2.3. Monique G. Doucette
 - 1.2.4. Tyrone G. Jefferson, Jr.
 - 1.3. ERB members absent:
 - 1.3.1. Wanda A. Brooks.
 - 1.3.2. Elizabeth Livingston de Calderon
 - 1.3.3. SUNO appointee (position is vacant).
 - 1.4. Staff members present:
 - 1.4.1. Dane S. Ciolino, Executive Administrator and General Counsel.
 - 1.4.2. Jordy Stiggs, Ethics Trainer
 - 1.4.3. Staff members absent: None.
 - 1.5. The agenda for the meeting is attached.

2. *Approval of Minutes.* Upon a duly made and seconded motion, the ERB unanimously approved the minutes of the regular ERB meeting on May 8, 2023.
3. *Monthly Report of the Office of the Inspector General.*
 - 3.1. Ed Michel appeared on behalf of the Office of the Inspector General. He was accompanied by his general counsel, chief evaluator, chief auditor, and office manager.
 - 3.2. Mr. Michel presented his office's monthly written report (attached). He also reported orally to the ERB and responded to ERB members' questions.
 - 3.3. Discussed community outreach efforts, including speeches to Rotary Club and other community organizations.
 - 3.4. Discussed fraud training that his staff attended, including training by Secret Service.
 - 3.5. Noted that his office is continuing several projects, including into the Sheriff's Office, and into time and attendance issues through ADP, and NOPD recruitment.
 - 3.6. Noted that a S&WB employee was recently indicted in federal court for extorting payments from plumbers. His office participated in this investigation.
 - 3.7. Noted that his office recently released a report about NOPD tire and rims purchases that were "purely cosmetic."
 - 3.8. Discussed the benefits of his office's investigation into homestead exemption abuses regarding exemptions being provided to nonowners. This investigation will save the city millions of dollars.
4. *Monthly Report of the Office of Independent Police Monitor.*
 - 4.1. Stella Cziment appeared on behalf of the Office of the Independent Police Monitor.
 - 4.2. Ms. Cziment discussed the monthly report (attached).
 - 4.3. Reported that Boncyle Sukundbi will leave her office to take the position of IPM in Ft. Worth, Texas. The OIPM will now move forward to hire a replacement. The IPM and board thanked Ms. Sukundbi for her service to the City of New Orleans.
 - 4.4. Noted that her office released its annual report for 2022 last month. She will report about it at a future board meeting. This report is an important analysis of NOPD data and how that data may change going forward. She thanked NOPD for being an active participant in the reporting process.

- 4.5. Noted that she engaged in 4 hours of training at the NOPD police academy regarding her office's roles and functions.
 - 4.6. Noted that her director of mediation provided conflict resolution skills to the public at a recent public meeting.
 - 4.7. Reported that she attended the Knowledge Lab meeting in Denver to learn more about constitutional policing and the use of data in police evaluation.
 - 4.8. Reported that she participated in a First Amendment program regarding the rights of police officers and citizens under the constitution, including issues relating to protests and recording of police officers, and issues related to officers having the right to post on social media and to pray in uniform.
 - 4.9. Noted that her office commented on Louisiana HB 85 relating to a "zone of safety" around officers engaged in their policing duties. Did not take a position on the bill, but will be monitoring the implementation of the new law (if signed by the governor).
 - 4.9.1. Ms. Doucette asked about the issues presented by the bill.
 - 4.9.2. The IPM responded that there are already laws on the books related to interference with police and resisting an officer. Given the existence of the laws, it is unclear whether this new law is necessary. Her office is very supportive of videotaping of police to support good actors and to "catch" bad ones.
 - 4.9.3. Ms. Sukundbi emphasized that video recordings have vindicated many officers from allegations of misconduct. The IPM agreed.
5. *Monthly Report of Ethics Trainer.*
- 5.1. Mr. Jordy Stiggs presented his monthly written report (attached). The board unanimously agreed to take this report out of order in advance of the OIPM reports.
 - 5.2. Noted that he has reconsidered some of the criteria for ethics awards, including the Liaison Awards. He explained the role of liaisons for the benefit of the board. He also noted that he will publicize and encourage nominations for these awards.
 - 5.3. Noted that the Torch Award had no nominees last year. He suspects that the application requires a narrative essay which might deter some nominations. He will propose recipients based on his personal experience with working with various boards and departments.
 - 5.4. Finally, he distributed a "Board Member Handbook" to each board member.

6. *Report of the Executive Administrator and General Counsel.*
 - 6.1. Mr. Ciolino presented his oral report.
 - 6.2. Mr. Ciolino reported that the ERB has received no new complaints.
 - 6.3. Noted that the July board meeting has been cancelled.
7. *Report on Appointments to ERB and Quality Assurance Review Advisory Committees.*
 - 7.1. Mr. Ciolino reported that three ERB positions must be filled ASAP. The mayor's office is working on this.
 - 7.2. Mr. Ciolino reported that 4 Council and Mayorial appointments remain unfilled on QARACs for the IG and the IPM.
8. *Discussion of Performance and Compensation Reviews*
 - 8.1. The OIG and OIPM need periodic reviews on performance and compensation. These reviews will be on the agenda for August.
 - 8.2. Ms. Callia noted that there are not hard and fast requirements for these reviews. She will appoint a "point person" for each position to be reviewed. The point person will report to the board.
9. *Election of Officers for 2023-2024 Term Commencing on July 1, 2023.*
 - 9.1. Mr. Jefferson nominated Ms. Callia to serve as ERB Chair for 2023-2024. Ms. Doucette seconded. After an opportunity for public comment, the board unanimously elected Ms. Callia as Chair after receiving no public comment.
 - 9.2. Mr. Jefferson was nominated and seconded to serve as ERB Vice-Chair. After an opportunity for public comment, the board unanimously elected Mr. Jefferson as Vice-Chair after receiving no public comment.
 - 9.3. Ms. Broussard was nominated and seconded to serve as ERB Secretary. After an opportunity for public comment, the board unanimously elected Ms. Broussard as Secretary after receiving no public comment.
10. *Adjournment.*
 - 10.1. A motion was made to adjourn the ERB meeting.
 - 10.2. The motion was seconded.
 - 10.3. The ERB unanimously voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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