



## **Ethics Review Board for the City of New Orleans**

### **Board Meeting of January 22, 2024, at 3:40 P.M. at Loyola Law School**

#### **Minutes**

1. *Call to Order.*
  - 1.1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:48 p.m.
  - 1.2. ERB members present:
    - 1.2.1. Dawn Broussard
    - 1.2.2. Elizabeth Livingston de Calderon
    - 1.2.3. Holly Callia, Chair
    - 1.2.4. Monique G. Doucette (arrived later)
    - 1.2.5. Tyrone G. Jefferson, Jr.
    - 1.2.6. Patrice Sentino (arrived later)
  - 1.3. ERB members absent:
    - 1.3.1. Wanda A. Brooks
  - 1.4. Staff members present:
    - 1.4.1. Dane S. Ciolino, Executive Administrator and General Counsel.
    - 1.4.2. Jordy Stiggs, Ethics Trainer
  - 1.5. Staff members absent:
    - 1.5.1. None.

- 1.6. 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 November 13, 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 also appeared with various staff members including Mike Laughlin, general counsel for OIG.
  - 3.2. The board accepted his monthly written report (attached).
  - 3.3. Mr. Michel began with a summary of his office's work last year. Among other things, his office has gone from 3 reports to 17 reports, the most ever for the OIG. His office culture has also been transformed.
  - 3.4. Mr. Michel's office has identified or recovered \$4.2 million for the City. Mr. Michel provided some examples of the recovery of properties and funds of the City, including the city council ordinance putting the Mayor's Pontalba apartment back into commerce. He also used as an example the recovery of improper homestead exemption properties.
  - 3.5. Ms. Calderon asked how long the OIG will do the assessor's job when the homestead exemption problem should be solved and addressed by the assessor's office. Mr. Michel responded that he has coordinated communications with the assessor's office and the assessor can take over the responsibilities of assuring that only eligible properties will be able to claim the exemption. He noted that this was "fraud" within his office's responsibilities.
  - 3.6. Mr. Michel also noted that in June he submitted his performance assessment for purposes of salary.
  - 3.7. Mr. Michel's office will look at SWB, Public Works, Safety and Permits, and various other departments and boards. His office's agenda for this year is ambitious.
  - 3.8. Noted that his website is updated and that his office now has more than 2,000 followers on X (formerly Twitter).
  - 3.9. Ms. Calderon asked whether all reports are available for the public on the website. Mr. Michel confirmed that all reports are posted for the public.
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. She was accompanied by various staff members, including her counsel Sharonda Williams and Ms. McGowan, the new Deputy Police Monitor.

- 4.2. The board accepted Ms. Cziment's monthly report (attached).
- 4.3. Ms. Cziment noted that it is an exciting time. There are a number of meetings in progress with the federal monitors, NOPD, and the EDLA federal court regarding consent decree issues.
- 4.4. Ms. Cziment stated that the peer reviewers are in the process of reviewing her office. The report of the review team will be distributed soon and the second peer review process will begin.
- 4.5. Ms. Cziment noted that she has participated in trainings across the country relating to the consent decree.
- 4.6. Ms. Cziment noted that consent decree compliance meetings are underway and that the "sustainment" period hopefully will begin soon. Her office is doing much of the heavy lifting in formulating an aspirational and realistic sustainment strategy. She will consult with the ERB as these plans develop, particularly because it will affect her funding and legislative priorities. She will include the ERB in all of these discussions.
- 4.7. Noted that her office recently reduced its 2024 work plan. That work plan is attached to the agenda of the ERB meeting for the benefit of the board.
- 4.8. Noted that the lengthy period of time it took to do an RFP for vendors for a call center.
- 4.9. Noted that her office is putting together FAQ materials for the public about NOPD, investigations, and municipal laws and regulations. This will help the community understand the policing universe in New Orleans.
- 4.10. Ms. Calderon asked what LSP troopers would be doing in New Orleans and what role OIPM will have with monitoring them. Ms. Cziment says her office will need a new protocol and perhaps a new MOU with LSP to discuss what OIPM will do by way of interaction with LSP. This is still developing. LSP has a different culture, different procedures, etc., that will have to be considered. LSP has agreed to a meeting with OIPM, something that in the past LSP would not agree to such a meeting. She reported that this is a "good sign."
- 4.11. Ms. Callia reported on some of the plans LSP has for New Orleans that she learned during a Crime Commission meeting. This appears to be a long-term plan LSP has for policing in New Orleans under the moniker "Troop NOLA."
- 4.12. Ms. Callia noted that the board is available to support the work of the OIPM.
- 4.13. Rev. Jefferson and other board members thanked Ms. Cziment and her office for their work.

5. *Monthly Report of Ethics Trainer.*
  - 5.1. Mr. Jordy Stiggs appeared.
  - 5.2. The board accepted Mr. Stiggs's monthly written report (attached).
  - 5.3. Mr. Stiggs reported on his efforts to develop the website into a more welcoming site with downloadable documents and materials.
  - 5.4. Mr. Stiggs showed the board some examples of the new website training materials.
  - 5.5. Mr. Stiggs reported that he has received a quote from a website developer to modernize the site and make it more user friendly and accessible.
  - 5.6. Mr. Stiggs will put a vote on the appropriation for the web design on the agenda for the next board meeting.
  - 5.7. Ms. Callia suggested that Mr. Stiggs reach out to the NOPD to offer training.
6. *Report of the Executive Administrator and General Counsel.*
  - 6.1. The board will consider a promotion for Mr. Stiggs at a future meeting.
  - 6.2. Mr. Ciolino presented his written report.
  - 6.3. Mr. Ciolino reported that the ERB has received one new complaint, No. 2024-01.
  - 6.4. Mr. Ciolino reported on the addition of an anonymous complaint submission form on the website.
7. *Report on Appointments to ERB and Quality Assurance Review Advisory Committees.*
  - 7.1. Mr. Ciolino reported that two ERB positions must be filled. The mayor's office is working on this.
  - 7.2. Mr. Ciolino reported that four (4) Council and Mayoral appointments remain unfilled on QARACs for the IG and the IPM.
  - 7.3. Mr. Ciolino will discuss with Loyola and Tulane the engagement of pro bono law student volunteers to serve on QARACs. The board will consider this in more detail at the next meeting.
8. *Discussion of Salaries of IPM and IG*
  - 8.1. The board discussed the salaries of the IG and IPM.

- 8.2. Mr. Ciolino will redistribute the salary materials that were previously distributed in August 203 so that the board can vote on these increases during the February meeting.
9. *Promotion of Jordy Stiggs*
  - 9.1. Upon motion duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to promote Mr. Stiggs to Development Management Specialist 2 (from Development Management Specialist 1).
  - 9.2. This promotion is contingent on Mr. Stiggs completing the requisite training.
10. *Executive Session to Discuss Complaint No. 2024-01.*
  - 10.1. On motion duly seconded, the board unanimously voted at 5:51 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes section 42:17 to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct as to ERB Complaint No. 2024-01.
  - 10.2. On motion duly seconded, the board unanimously voted at 6:05 p.m. to adjourn the executive session and to return to public session
  - 10.3. On motion duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to disposition of Complaint No. 2024-01 pending the receipt of additional information.
11. *Adjournment.*
  - 11.1. A motion was made to adjourn the ERB meeting.
  - 11.2. The motion was seconded.
  - 11.3. The ERB unanimously voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

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