



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

**Board Meeting of March 10, 2024, at Loyola Law School, 526 Pine Street, Room 308,  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118**

### **Minutes**

1. *Call to Order.*
  - 1.1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
  - 1.2. Attendance
    - 1.2.1. ERB members present:
      - 1.2.1.1. Dawn Broussard, Chair
      - 1.2.1.2. Holly Callia
      - 1.2.1.3. Monique G. Doucette
      - 1.2.1.4. Sally Richardson
      - 1.2.1.5. Patrice Sentino
    - 1.2.2. ERB members absent: None
    - 1.2.3. Staff member present: Dane S. Ciolino, Executive Administrator & General Counsel
    - 1.2.4. Staff member present: Jordy Stiggs, Ethics Trainer.
  - 1.3. 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 held in February 10, 2024.

3. *Monthly Report of the Office of the Inspector General.*
  - 3.1. The board accepted Mr. Michel's monthly report (attached).
  - 3.2. The board declined to receive an oral report this month.
4. *Monthly Report of the Office of Independent Police Monitor.*
  - 4.1. The board accepted Ms. Cziment's monthly report (attached).
  - 4.2. The board declined to receive an oral report this month.
5. *Monthly Report of the Ethics Trainer*
  - 5.1. The board accepted Mr. Stiggs's monthly report (attached).
  - 5.2. The board declined to receive an oral report this month.
6. *Report of the Executive Administrator and General Counsel.*
  - 6.1. The board accepted Mr. Ciolino's monthly report (attached).
  - 6.2. The board declined to receive an oral report this month.
7. *Discussion and Vote on Reappointment of Inspector General Ed Michel*
  - 7.1. Ed Michel presented an overview of his office's work since his appointment, commencing at 3:32.
  - 7.2. Mr. Michel thanked his family and team for their support and assistance.
  - 7.3. Mr. Michel highlighted the work of his office in combatting fraud, waste, and abuse in city government. He quoted and referenced his most recent annual report, which was made public today. That report speaks for itself and is attached to these minutes.
  - 7.4. Mr. Michel's remarks concluded at 3:46.
  - 7.5. Public comments, which commenced at 3:47, were as follows:
    - 7.5.1. Comments received by email (attached to these minutes):
      - 7.5.1.1. Laura Rodrigue (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
      - 7.5.1.2. Belden Batiste (in opposition to Mr. Michel's reappointment)
      - 7.5.1.3. Jim Cook (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
      - 7.5.1.4. Karl Fasold (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)

- 7.5.1.5.Rita Glavin (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.1.6.Michael Hecht (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.1.7.Terry Mills (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.2. Michael Cowan (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.3. Rafael Goyeneche (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.4. Patrice Rose (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.5. Alison Broyles (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.6. Charlotte Horne (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.7. Bobbie Jones (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.8. Rodney Black (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.9. Heather Browning (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.10. Sarah Lewis (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.11. Amanda Barry (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.12. Jessica Henschen (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.13. Michael Laughlin (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.14. Alicia Plummer (in opposition to Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.15. Edward Parker (in opposition to Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.16. Belden Batiste (in opposition to Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.17. George Mahdi submitted a comment form, but declined the opportunity to speak (the comment form was in opposition to Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.18. Dierdre Lewis (in opposition to Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.19. Sean Beavers (in support of Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.20. Annette Cranford-Hamilton (in opposition to Mr. Michel's reappointment)
- 7.5.21. Mr. Ciolino noted that confidential ERB Complaint 2025-01, which was submitted by a former subject of an OIG investigation, is negative. That

complaint was forwarded to each board member by email a few days ago for consideration before this reappointment meeting.

7.5.22. Public comments concluded at 4:43.

- 7.6. Ms. Sentino asked about the status of the public records requests made by Mr. Batiste. Mr. Michel of the OIG reported on the response by the OIG.
- 7.7. Ms. Richardson asked the OIG employees whether Mr. Michel asked them to speak. They responded that he informed them of the meeting but did not ask them to speak. Other employees noted that they have civil service protections.
- 7.8. Ms. Doucette addressed Mr. Batiste. She asked whether there were other employees at the OIG who were dissatisfied with Mr. Michel. He responded that there were, but that he would not name them. He reported that he represents the whole community including those workers.
- 7.9. Ms. Callia noted that the complaints brought to the board were thoroughly investigated over the course of more than a year. The board was not able to get proof of the misconduct alleged today. The board spent a significant amount of money to investigate the allegations.
- 7.10. Ms. Callia moved to reappoint Mr. Michel as inspector general to a second four-year term.
- 7.11. Ms. Doucette seconded the motion.
- 7.12. Ms. Sentino noted that the comments today were comments about the same alleged misconduct that the board investigated in depth. She is voting today on Mr. Michel's performance as IG. She is not voting today on personal matters. She is voting on Mr. Michel's production.
- 7.13. The board voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Michel to another four-year term.

8. *Executive Session*

- 8.1. After a motion, duly seconded, the board voted unanimously at 5:04 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes section 42:17(A)(4) to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct, namely, ERB Complaint No. 2025-01.
- 8.2. After a motion, duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to return to general session at 5:14 p.m.

9. *Resolution of Complaint 2025-01*

- 9.1. After a motion, duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to dismiss ERB Complaint 2025-01. The board dismissed the complaint for failure to allege a

prima facie violation of the City of New Orleans Code of Governmental Ethics. In addition, the board noted that it lacks jurisdiction to grant the relief that the complainant requested.

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 5:15 p.m.

\* END \*

# NOUF

NEW ORLEANS UNIFIED FRONT

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Belden Batiste

(504)259-3766

3/6/2025

**More than \$200,000 in taxpayers' money wasted by City's ERB defending persisting claims against Mr. Michele vindictive, racist, misogynist tendencies and professional misconduct as Inspector General.**

Today, NOUF announced that it has filed a complaint against Inspector General Ed Michele and the New Orleans Ethics Review Board with the **Louisiana Board of Ethics**, calling for an investigation regarding a litany of grievances when it comes to biased reporting, conflicts, and professional misconduct that has come to light.

NOUF released a report, ***"Inspecting the Fox that Watches the Henhouse"*** which unveils the community's grievances with current Inspector General Ed Michele. The coalition claims Mr. Michele has been a source of his own waste of taxpayer dollars, abuse of power, and fraudulent misrepresentations to the public. This OIG operates under a veil of hypocrisy, the report concludes.

NOUF's position is that the Ethic Review Board (ERB) is culpable, as it is summarily dismissive of citizen and OIG workers' complaints against Mr. Michele. The lack of accountability has corrupted the practices and compromised the objectiveness of the OIG. In its report, the coalition presents evidence that lays bare how the ERB has created a facade when it comes to investigating the corrupt wrongdoing of Mr. Michele—blindly granting leniency and deference to the Inspector General at taxpayers' expense. The coalition condemns the scheme ERB established as a covert practice of paying attorneys via large NO BID contracts off of taxpayers' money to investigate complaints against Mr. Michele. These investigations are intentionally coordinated by the board chair to leave no paper trail of deliberations behind for the public to request.

A recent public records request submitted by NOUF to the OIG went largely ignored, whereby sources inside the OIG's office have reported intentional delays and withholding of Michele's city credit card expenses, performance evaluations, and other undisclosed legal and settlement expenses. The obstruction of the public records request is being personally orchestrated by the Inspector General himself, according to the sources.

**Call for Action**

The organization demands: 1) resignation of current ERB board members, 2) reconstitution of the ERB and OIG offices, and 3) City Council adoption of new amendments to the city charter to restore public trust in the OIG and to follow-up with its own investigation into this operation.

NOUF is also calling on the ERB to halt any discussions at its upcoming board meeting to renew the Inspector General's more than \$256,000 salary, until the Inspector General responds to the public records request from the community. The coalition is diametrically opposed to the renewal of Mr. Michele's contract.

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# NEW ORLEANS UNITED FRONT

## MEDIA ADVISORY

2/24/2025

POC, Beldin Batiste

504-259-3766

## **NOUF Calls for the Termination of Inspector General, Ed Michele**

New Orleans United Front (NOUF), a coalition of grassroots community organizations focused on government accountability, will be releasing a report, ***Inspecting the Fox that Watches the Henhouse: A report on the New Orleans Inspector General, Edward Michel***. The Group is calling for the termination of Mr. Edward Michel's contract to serve another term as Inspector General. His contract is up for renewal at a meeting of the Ethics Review Board (ERB) scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup> 3:30p.m. at Loyola University's Law School 526 Pine Street Rm 308.

### **NOUF Position Statement**

“ Mr. Ed Michele is culpable in creating waste, abuse and fraud during his tenure in the office while being entrusted by this community to police others—making him a hypocrite to the mission and purpose of this office. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Michel's insidious character flaws have costed taxpayers' real money. Countless examples exist whereby the ERB summarily dismissed citizens' and OIG workers' complaints against Mr. Michel from racial and gender discrimination to his retaliatory targeting of public officials and his former employees. The ERB failed to act in accordance with the city's charter. Nefariously, the ERB deployed covert tactics to protect and shield from public view the sunken cost of his misdeeds, ethical violations, and wasteful spending. The NOUF report will lay bare the evidence that points to unprofessional conduct and acts by Mr. Michel that have tarnished the integrity of the office of under his leadership—which long before this moment, constituted justification for his removal from this office.”

NOUF calls for the resignation of current board members and the reconstitution of the ERB for their negligible oversight. NOUF will provide recommendations for policy reforms related to this office.

**Media will be invited to a press conference to be announced immediately after  
Mardi Gras**

###



# NOUF

NEW ORLEANS UNIFIED FRONT

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Belden Batiste

(504)259-3766

3/6/2025

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TO: Louisiana Board of Ethics  
FROM: Belden Batiste, NOUF Lead Organizer  
[beldenbatiste@gmail.com](mailto:beldenbatiste@gmail.com)  
504-259-3766  
DATE: March 5, 2025

**RE: Complaint Against City of New Orleans Inspector General Ed Michel and the City of New Orleans Ethics Review Board (SWORN Complaint)**

The **New Orleans United Front Organization** is a coalition of community organizations and activists dedicated to promoting transparency, accountability, and justice in local government. We are filing a complaint against the New Orleans Office of the Inspector General, Mr. Ed. Michele with the Louisiana Board of Ethics, as the highest ethics review authority in the state. This complaint is on behalf of citizens of New Orleans and those who fell victim to Inspector General Ed Michele's unethical abuse of power and fraudulent disinformation reporting to taxpaying citizens of New Orleans. It is our observation that Mr. Michele has **violated the provisions of the city charter** and the professional standards of conduct according to the governing standards of the **Association of Inspector Generals (AIG)**. Hence the reason, we are calling on the Louisiana State Board of Ethics to review the practices of the New Orleans Ethics Review Board when it comes to transparency and oversight of the Inspector General relative to his integrity of character, lapse of judgement, and supervisory flaws that may render Mr. Michele an unfit and biased arbiter serving in his current capacity.

**Complaint 1**

The City of New Orleans Charter, Article XIII states "(b) Prior to concluding an audit or evaluation report, which contains findings as to the person or entity which is the subject of the audit or evaluation, the office of inspector general shall provide the affected person or entity with an internal review copy of the report. Such person or entity shall have 30 days from the transmittal date of the report to submit a written explanation or rebuttal of the findings before the report is finalized, and such timely submitted written explanation, or rebuttal shall be attached to the finalized report."

By evidence of this example, Dr. Webster, an African American male leader of the city's detention center was falsely persecuted by the Office of the Inspector General and was not given the opportunity to respond and rebut inaccurate information

contained in the report, albeit his attorney making the request to do so. Doing this would have provided the public with a fair assessment of this case. Instead, to create media sensationalism and public outrage towards this African American male leader, he denied him of his right of due process. This was a contravention to City Charter Article XIII. We also raise the constitutionality of this practice as we believe it is a violation of the 14 Amendment, which ensures substantive due process rights by law enforcement entities. By city charter, the OIG is considered law enforcement.

*(AIG) Professional standards.* Standards for initiating and conducting audits, investigations, inspections, and performance reviews by the office of inspector general will conform to the *Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspectors General (Green Book)* promulgated by the *Association of Inspectors General*. The office of inspector general shall develop an operations manual available to the public that contains principles based on these standards.

We believe that the New Orleans Ethics Review board has not been transparent with the public regarding the professional conduct of the Inspector General, Mr. Ed Michele. Based on the attached leaked transcript, such reports of his internal misconduct have been shielded from public view and awareness. Meanwhile, Mr. Michele is empowered to critically examine others based on professional standards of conduct while he himself has failed. This raises serious concerns from this community about his fitness for office and the blatant hypocrisy that gives him a false sense of empowerment to render judgement on others without being the model. This is evident in the lack of transparency with how grievances from his own staff and others are handled and reported to the public. As a matter of public records request, this community body has called for the public disclosure of all grievances filed against Mr. Ed Michele.

To date, a public records request has summarily been ignored and have not been fulfilled accurately and completely.

Research by Crawford (2019) underscores how racial politics intersect with oversight mechanisms, particularly in cases involving Black leaders. Scandals involving Black public figures are often amplified and disproportionately investigated, while similar allegations against their white counterparts may be overlooked or dismissed. These practices reinforce negative stereotypes about Black leadership, further entrenching systemic racism.

Oversight bodies like the OIG often replicate patterns of racial profiling seen in law enforcement, targeting Black individuals for investigation based on implicit biases rather than substantive evidence (Patel & Sullivan, 2012). This dynamic is not only unjust but also detrimental to the pursuit of equity and justice in governance. By perpetuating racial disparities, the OIG becomes an instrument of systemic oppression rather than a beacon of accountability.

- Crawford, N. N. (2019). *Of suspicious minds: Race, scandal, and the DC mayoralty*. *Journal of Urban Affairs*. Retrieved from [Taylor & Francis](#).
- Patel, F., & Sullivan, A. (2012). *A proposal for a NYPD inspector general*. Retrieved from [IssueLab](#).

**2. Objectivity** – OIGs should gather, assess, and report evidence in a fair, unbiased, and independent manner to determine the validity of allegations or evaluate the likelihood of violations of statutes, rules, regulations, or policies. (AIG standard)

We believe that Mr. Michele has targeted individuals based on a local toxic political ethos amongst the legislative body and the administration and at times have been influenced by such local politics in his selective targeting and bias of black male and female leaders. The attached leaked transcript provides insight into Mr. Michele's biases and possible motives for how he has abused the power entrusted to him to report accurately and objectively to the taxpaying public.

Research findings (Abrams, 2010), indicate that corruption investigations by oversight entities like the OIG are frequently influenced by political motivations rather than purely ethical considerations. Political opponents are more likely to be targeted for investigations, particularly during periods of heightened partisan tensions. This dynamic suggests that the OIG is susceptible to being weaponized as a tool for political retribution, rather than serving as an unbiased arbiter of justice. We have reason to believe that Mr. Ed Michele substandard professional practices are congruent with this assertion.

- Abrams, N. (2010). *The distance imperative: A different way of thinking about public official corruption investigations/prosecutions*. *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal*. Retrieved from [HeinOnline](#).

**3. Thoroughness** – OIGs should conduct investigations in a diligent and complete manner and take reasonable steps to ensure that sufficient and appropriate evidence is collected;

pertinent issues are sufficiently resolved; and appropriate criminal, civil, contractual, or administrative remedies are considered. (AIG standard)

New Orleans OIG Investigators were not thorough in their review of applicable city ordinances related to donations to the city and thus did not include any reference of such in the report albeit, it being a main allegation in the report. Competent knowledge of such policies was not evident on the part of the investigators, given Mr. Michele's false claim and public persecution as the subject of the said investigation.

Moreover, in Nov 2022 Inspector General, Ed Michele took to television and made damaging and conclusive statements that are not supported by valid evidence in the report he published. He publicly accused the subject of the investigation of only going to work 13 times out of 12 months on / WDSU 6 (see link below). This statement is part of Mr. Michele's pattern of creating disinformation campaigns for the public. Interviewees that he selected reported that Dr. Webster came to work every day, and payroll records reflected such attendance. Despite these counter sources he had to triangulate, Mr. Michele still led in the media with a spin of damaging talking points intended to paint Dr. Webster in a negative light before the public. To create public outrage, Mr. Michele messaging implied that Dr. Webster was paid to do nothing.

**See evidence links:**

<https://www.wdsu.com/article/new-orleans-oig-report-kyshun-webster/41821660>

[https://nolaoig.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/ROI-Webster-2022-10-31-Final\\_Redacted.pdf](https://nolaoig.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/ROI-Webster-2022-10-31-Final_Redacted.pdf)

Mr. Michele also misinforms taxpaying citizens of the successes accomplished at JJIC with their tax dollars at work. He ignored public records reporting on the positive progress, pre and post school attendance records, incident records with the Department of Children and Family Services, incidents of violence, parent surveys, employee morale surveys and a national evaluative study performed by a third-party authority, Performance Based Standards (PBS). This is another example of his lack of quality assurance in reporting and feeding miss information about the effectiveness of a black leader to discredit and delegitimize his professional accomplishments out positive outcomes achieve. His critique of "effectiveness" went beyond the scope of his investigation and was intentionally misleading.



To create more performative theatrics, Mr. Michele referred the case to the Louisiana Board of Ethics. Given the same information provided in the report generated by the New Orleans OIG, the state board did not concur with Mr. Michele, ( LA Board of Ethics Docket No. 2022-864) when the actual applicable policies were reviewed and applied to this case, “found no violation.”

Therefore, we posit, that considering such internal misconduct leaked by OIG staff, it confirms our belief that these acts by Mr. Michele are intentional manifestations of his biases and are consistent with a “takedown/cancel culture” assault on black leadership.

**4. Legal Requirements** – OIGs should initiate, conduct, and report investigations in accordance with (a) all applicable laws, rules, and regulations; (b) guidelines from applicable prosecutorial authorities; and (c) office policies and procedures.

We believe, by example of this report, that Mr. Ed Michele reporting has not met the AIG, Green book standard of Objectivity. The report selectively omits evidence of competent knowledge and applicable city ordinances were not applied to fairly report to the public.

Additionally, by example of this report, Mr. Michele, withheld exculpatory information to paint the subject in a negative light to create media sensationalism and public outrage.

Hence it is our belief that Mr. Michele made fraudulent misrepresentations to the taxpaying public regarding personnel, programs, and outcomes for which the public has a vested interest.

Weaponization of the OIG is the embodiment of waste, abuse and fraud. Based on this example presented in this complaint, we are sure that there are other nuances in reports on black leaders are worthy of a second look at methods and quality assurance for gathering and reporting data to the public. In the age of disinformation and corruption of our institutions of government we must also hold the hen that watches the henhouse accountable. As such, we call on the highest ethics authority, the Louisiana Board of Ethics to review this complaint from the citizens of New Orleans.

## **Complaint 2**

- According to Louisiana Revised Statutes §33:9613(A)(1), all records gathered, and proceedings conducted during a preliminary investigation are confidential and privileged. However, if the local ethics entity decides to issue a report or file charges

after the preliminary investigation, all subsequent records and proceedings related to the matter become subject to public review and scrutiny, unless otherwise provided by law.

We believe Mr. Michel has colluded with media sources and in haste launched drip campaigns that rush towards journalistic editorialization before the outcome and disposition of a case is determined. This compromises the independent judgment of the OIG and permits this office to play into media sensationalism, as Michel regularly opines in the media with careless hyperbolic (exaggerated) language and conclusions not supported with substantive well-reasoned evidence. This investigatory incompetence fuels false public outrage, while helping his media comrades to boost media ratings, which reifies his office's existence.

A public records request for such documentation has gone ignored and is in violation of Louisiana Public Records Law, La. Rev. Stat. § 44:1, et seq., which mandates the release of public records. City of New Orleans Policy Memorandum No. 92, issued on December 23, 1991,

### **Complaint 3**

- Jeremy Walton, a former employee of the OIG, filed a complaint in 2021 against Ed Michele, who contacted his place of employment and spoke with HR at LSU in retaliation of Mr. Walton making critical comments of his office on social media. Allegedly, this complaint was investigated by the Ethics Review Board. However, it was dismissed without in actions taken against Mr. Michele, Board Chair Elizabeth Livingston de Calderon, a white female lawyer, who served from 2017-2023 nominated by Tulane University, said she was "uncomfortable with the actions alleged in the complaint" but added that they do not violate the city's code of ethics. No other board member commented. Board member Torin Sanders was the lone person who voted against the motion to dismiss.

We believe Ms. Livingston de Calderon and the board's deliberation on this complaint was woefully wrong according to the Green Book Standards and **Louisiana's Blacklisting Law (La. R.S. 23:967 & La. R.S. 23:921 et seq.)** Employers cannot **retaliate** against former employees or **collude** to prevent a former employee from obtaining new work through **false statements**. At face value, Mr. Michele's call to a former employee's new job was foul-play intended to disparage and silence Mr. Walton. Furthermore, Michel actions violated the right to free



speech by a private citizen that was no longer an employee of the OIG. Additionally, **(La. R.S. 23:291)** states if an employer **knowingly provides false or misleading information** with **malicious intent**, they can face legal consequences. In his actions, Michel created yet another liability due to his demonstrated vindictive nature.

***SEE ATTACHED NOTICE OF PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST***

#### **Complaint 4**

Mr. Ed Michel has been sued by two individuals for racial and gender discrimination who felt targeted. A complaint was also filed with the local ethics board by an employee regarding Michel's unethical practices and misconduct. This caused the ERB to conduct an investigation using a law firm, Transcendent, who was paid an undisclosed amount of taxpayer money to investigate, but to date Mr. Michel has obstructed the public records and have not produced the requested documents.

See link to evidence : [https://www.nola.com/news/new-orleans-inspector-general-sexist-remarks/article\\_d9417648-e8d3-11ef-bdc2-5f5755098008.html](https://www.nola.com/news/new-orleans-inspector-general-sexist-remarks/article_d9417648-e8d3-11ef-bdc2-5f5755098008.html)

As the Highest ethics authority in the state, we request the review of the local Ethic Review Boards policies for transparency and public disclosure of matters relevant to maintaining the integrity of the City of New Orleans Office of Inspector General. We believe that the Ethics Review Board has used clandestine methods to avoid public disclosure of information regarding the performance of the Inspector General, Mr. Ed Michel.

**SWORN COMPLAINT**

Complainant Signature Belden Batiste  
Belden Batiste

The above-named complaint attests to the truthfulness of the statements contained in this complaint.

Sworn before me this:

Date: MARCH 5 2025

Notary Signature 

LOUIS A. GERDES, JR.  
NOTARY NO. 23800



3/6/2025

City of New Orleans Ethics Review Board  
525 St. Charles Avenue  
New Orleans, LA. 70130

Dear Members of the Ethics Review Board:

I write this letter to urge and request you all vote favorably for the reappointment of Mr. Ed Michel as the Inspector General for the Parish of Orleans. I'm also requesting confidentiality of this letter per the city ordinance creating the ethics review board. I have extensive knowledge of the Office of Inspector General and the Ethics Review Board having served on the New Orleans City Council and in the Louisiana Legislature. I am also a former employee of the Orleans Parish Communications District where I was the Director of Support Services. In each of these roles, I cooperated with the OIG in his work.

I witnessed the thorough investigative leadership of Mr. Michel and his staff. The reports produced by the OIG under Mr. Michel's leadership are thorough and provide valuable information and guidance to other public officials and agencies.

During my public service career, I have consistently found Mr. Michel to exemplify ethics and integrity, demonstrating a strong pride in the quality of the OIG's work. I wholeheartedly endorse and recommend the reappointment of Ed Michel as the Inspector General of Orleans Parish.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jared C. Brossett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jared C. Brossett

cc: Dane Ciolino, Executive Administrator, Ethics Review Board

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**Public Comment for the Ethics Review Board Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel - 3/10/25**

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**From** Cook, James <jim.cook@sheraton.com>

**Date** Sun 09-Mar-25 4:57 PM

**To** erb@nolaerb.gov <erb@nolaerb.gov>

**Cc** Dane S. Ciolino <dane@daneciolino.com>

My name is Jim Cook. I am the General Manager of the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel and the current Chair of the Business Council of New Orleans and The River Region. The comments below represent the position of the Business Council regarding this issue.

The Business Council was a key partner in the post-Katrina reform effort that resulted in the creation of Office of the Inspector General, its dedicated funding and the appointment of the City's first-ever Inspector General. The office's mission requires independence that transcends election cycles and the risk of political interference, and it was structured in a way to protect against these intrusions.

Given this year's changeover to a new mayor and city council, we urge continuity in the Inspector General's office to ensure stability in the transition oversight. We also note that the work and output under this Inspector General when viewed through the key metrics of reports issued, dollars saved and return on citizens' investment show growth over time. The Inspector General's 2025 work plan aligns with important areas of concern and impact, and should be accomplished without the interruption, delay or the inefficiency a new search process would require. Finally, we note that the responsibility of the Inspector General to publicly address key areas of government's underperformance creates a unique vulnerability to criticism or retribution.

Finally, this inspector general has demonstrated the independence, courage, and nonpartisan reporting needed to promote public confidence and transparency, and we ask this Ethics Review Board to demonstrate and assure the public of objectivity, integrity and independence during this evaluative process and ensure continuity in the workflow of the Office.

Jim Cook  
Chair  
Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region

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## New Orleans Inspector General Reappointment

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From Karl Fasold <karlf@911nola.org>

Date Mon 10-Mar-25 8:37 AM

To Dane S. Ciolino <dane@daneciolino.com>

Esteemed members of the Ethics Board:

I'm writing to you today to endorse and recommend the reappointment of Edward Michel as New Orleans Inspector General.

I have worked with Mr. Michel and his staff regarding each of the inquiries and investigations they have pursued with respect to the Orleans Parish Communication District, first as the Director of Technology (in which role I was responsible for providing the data requested of a non-financial or policy nature by the NOOIG) and more intensely as the Executive Director. In all cases he and his personnel have been consummate professionals, following the data and evidence to logical conclusions.

I welcome any opportunity to work with the OIG and his staff. While it can be embarrassing or humiliating to discover you've been making mistakes, or in ignorance of the law or regulations, they have always worked in a non-judgmental manner to educate, inform, and support our work to correct issues identified. They are assisting us to become the best agency we can be.

I am aware of the controversies that have arisen during Mr. Michel's tenure, and the groups that are advocating for his removal. I have not personally witnessed or been told of any inappropriate comments, misogynist or racial discrimination, or discrimination based upon sexual orientation. I have not heard any concerns from my staff who have worked with the OIG or his staff on any of these topics either. Having come to know a number of his staff members, I don't believe they would tolerate or remain working for anyone who personified those attributes that he's been accused of (without any evidence or censure following your investigation of them).

My only agenda is to ensure my agency is compliant with all applicable regulations and statutes, and that we are providing the services to the Field First Responders, Citizens, and Visitors to the City of New Orleans in the best manner possible. As such, having Mr. Michel as the NOOIG provides a validation that we are doing so. He goes where the problems are and works to resolve them. From my observations, the same cannot be said of those advocating for his removal. Their attacks seem rooted in attempts to remove the spotlight from their own issues (many brought to light by the efforts of the NOOIG) and instead remove the messenger.

Thank you for your consideration and allowing me to provide this feedback.

Karl Fasold

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Karl Fasold, ENP, CPE  
Executive Director  
Orleans Parish Communication District  
(New Orleans 9-1-1/3-1-1)

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helpdesk: 504-671-3926  
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This electronic message and all contents and attachments contain information from the Orleans Parish Communication District. If you have received this message in error, please advise us and destroy the original message and any copies.

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**Re: Edward Michel**

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**From** Rita Glavin <rglavin@glavinpllc.com>  
via nolaerb.gov

**Date** Thu 06-Mar-25 8:16 PM

**To** Dane S. Ciolino <dane@daneciolino.com>; erb nolaerb.gov <erb@nolaerb.gov>

Mr. Ciolino,

I understand that Edward Michel is up for consideration for another term as Inspector General for the City of New Orleans.

I confirm everything that I represented to you in December 2021. To be clear, I have maintained my relationship with Edward Michel since my last email to you. He is a person of great integrity, understands the rule of law, is a hard worker for the public good, and he is a fundamentally decent, empathetic, and pragmatic human being.

I have worked with many people in my roles as a prosecutor, defense lawyer and civil litigator. Edward Michel is a rock star and I cannot recommend him more highly.

I am available and welcome, at any time, to answer any questions you have about Edward Michel.

Regards,  
Rita Glavin

Rita M. Glavin

Glavin PLLC

156 West 56th Street, #2004

New York, NY 10019

tel: (646) 693-5505

[rglavin@glavinpllc.com](mailto:rglavin@glavinpllc.com)

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**From:** Dane S. Ciolino <dane@daneciolino.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 2:57:52 PM

**To:** Rita Glavin <rglavin@glavinpllc.com>; erb nolaerb.gov <erb@nolaerb.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Edward Michel

Received. Thanks.

Dane  
Dane S. Ciolino  
M: 504-975-3263  
dane@daneciolino.com

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**From:** Rita Glavin <rglavin@glavinpllc.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 1:54 PM  
**To:** erb nolaerb.gov <erb@nolaerb.gov>  
**Subject:** Edward Michel

All—

I understand that Edward Michel is being considered for the permanent Inspector General position for the City of New Orleans. I have no doubt that Ed is the right person for this job and will do right by the City and its citizens in this important post.

I have known Ed since 1999, when I was a prosecutor with the U.S. Department Justice's public corruption unit based in Washington, D.C. Ed was an FBI agent in Mobile, Alabama and we worked closely together for two years on a police corruption investigation. Ed worked tirelessly on that matter, with little help from other agents because of resource limitations. Six police officers were charged with, among other things, extortion and civil rights violations in connection with taking money/property from individuals who were stopped or arrested. The investigation was a complex one, which included executing a search warrant on the Prichard Alabama Police Department that Ed supervised. The evidence recovered from that search was criticism to furthering our investigation.

Ed was a true partner to me throughout that investigation and the two trials that followed. His work ethic, integrity, intelligence, and good humor were invaluable. He knows how to conduct investigations, work well with others, and, most importantly, do the right thing. I trusted him completely, and recommend him for this position without hesitation.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Rita Glavin

Rita M. Glavin  
Glavin PLLC  
2585 Broadway #211  
New York, NY 10025  
tel: (646) 693-5505  
[rglavin@glavinpllc.com](mailto:rglavin@glavinpllc.com)

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**Inspector General**

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**From** Michael Hecht <MHecht@gnoinc.org>  
via nolaerb.gov

**Date** Mon 10-Mar-25 8:13 AM

**To** Dane S. Ciolino <dane@daneciolino.com>; erb nolaerb.gov <erb@nolaerb.gov>

**Cc** holly.callia@beonpath.com <holly.callia@beonpath.com>

Dear Ethics Review Board,

The creation of the Office of Inspector General was a key post-Katrina reform for New Orleans. The office's mission to ensure efficient and ethical provision of government services demands that it exists outside of political cycles and interference.

With this in mind, it is important that we have continuity in the Office of Inspector General, as we are on the verge of a new Mayor and City Council. Furthermore, the work of Ed Michel and his office has been beneficial to the City of New Orleans in terms of the transparency, public confidence, and return on citizen's investment. The Inspector General's 2025 work plan should be allowed to go forward, and not be hindered by the interruption and delay inherent in a search for a new Inspector General. We recognize that some may criticize the Inspector General, but this is inherent to the office's mission.

Ed Michel has demonstrated apolitical independence and responsibility, and has been effective for the people of New Orleans. On behalf of Greater New Orleans, Inc., we urge the Ethics Review Board to reappoint Ed Michel as Inspector General.

Michael Hecht  
President & CEO  
Greater New Orleans, Inc.

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**Michael Hecht**  
President & CEO  
Greater New Orleans, Inc.  
1100 Poydras Street, Ste. 3475  
New Orleans, LA 70163  
[mhecht@gnoinc.org](mailto:mhecht@gnoinc.org)  
M - 504.715.5037  
@MHechtGNO

# TERRY MILLS

Corpus Christi, TX 78401 | 361 548-9489 | Theirdayfoundation@gmail.com

February 28, 2025

New Orleans Ethics Review Board

RE: Edward Michel, Inspector General

Dear Ethics Review Board,

I first met Ed Michel in 2012 while he was serving as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, in Houston, Texas. Ed represented the FBI at an NAACP sponsored community event I facilitated while serving as the Corpus NAACP President. This community service event focused on the use of force by police officers. Corpus was experiencing an increase in officer related shootings and many citizen's expressed their concern at this alarming trend.

Ed was very attentive to our concerns and immediately offered solutions to ease our concerns while developing a plan to properly educate law enforcement officers about the parameters concerning the use of lethal force. Ed quickly developed and implemented a training course for law enforcement officers concerning the continuum of force which had a lasting and immediate impact towards law enforcement accountability.

However, Ed didn't stop there and he quickly became a significant partner for the NAACP as he assisted us in achieving our objectives. He partnered with me as we developed the NAACP Youth Summit which assisted us to educate the youth in our community about bullying, drug abuse and other significant topics. His contributions far surpassed our expectations.

An African American in Corpus Christi became the victim of targeted violence simply because of his sexual orientation and the color of his skin. This victim suffered heinous acts of violence as he was brutally assaulted and raped repeatedly. The victim sought justice from the local police department but his plea for justice went unanswered; until Ed decided to address this most heinous crime with the resources under his command.

Ed directed his personnel to address this most disturbing crime as he incorporated technology to increase community outreach in an incredibly diverse community in a most comfortable and efficient manner. When these subjects fled the country, we thought this crime was going to go unanswered, however, Ed persisted. He dedicated and incorporated the resources of the FBI Legal Attached in several countries. These subjects were located and brought back to Texas where they were convicted utilizing the Matthew Sheppard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

In nearby Victoria, a white supremacist set a Muslim Mosque ablaze and destroyed this most critical house of worship. Ed again quickly acted and within a few days, he directed the resources of the Department of Justice to eliminate this threat to our great State. When another individual sent an improvised explosive device to President Barack Obama, Texas Governor Greg Abbot and the Social Security Administration, Ed again took immediate action. Governor Greg Abbott actually opened the package and fortunately, the device malfunctioned. Ed quickly took action and quickly identified Julia Poff, who was arrested and held accountable for her actions.

In another incident, Jonathan Torres, preyed upon the citizens of Beaumont as he detonated bombs at churches while placing additional bombs at a local Starbucks. Torres then sent threatening letters designed to antagonize the Beaumont Police Department. Again, Ed acted immediately and ended this reign of terror by Torres. When Ed and other FBI Agent's entered the residence of Torres, they seized an arsenal full of bomb making material, several handguns, rifles and thousands of rounds of ammunition. Also seized were explosives and numerous packages which Torres was preparing for delivery to unsuspecting victims.

Upon retirement from the FBI, Ed was offered several prestigious positions to include the Director of Security for the Oregon State Lottery and the Assistant Director of Homeland Security by the Louisiana Governor. However, Ed declined these positions and accepted a position many believe was beneath his skill level to fulfill his desire to serve the citizens of New Orleans.

I give Ed Michel my highest recommendation and have utmost confidence in him and his abilities. He is a trusting and caring professional who excels in his duties while exhibiting compassion and collaboration at every aspect. I was proud to present Ed with the NAACP Spirit of Courage Award on January 18, 2020 for his remarkable service to our community, including the disenfranchised who are often unrepresented and forgotten. New Orleans would be very fortunate indeed to have him as their Inspector General.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Mills". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Terry" and last name "Mills" clearly distinguishable.

President Terry Mills,  
Their Day Foundation Inc.

**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** Laura Rodrigue

**Organization (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** I support the reappointment  
of OIG Ed Michel. He has done a  
thorough job of addressing issues that  
have plagued our city. His much  
needed work has been lacking and  
has restored accountability for  
elected officials.

**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.

**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** DR. MICHAEL COWAN

**Organization (if any):** LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

☒ Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

☐ No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.

**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** Rafael Gayeneche

**Organization (if any):** Metropolitan Crime Comm

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

☒ Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

☐ No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.



**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** Patrice Rose

**Organization (if any):** Office of Inspector General

**Comments:** Speaking in favor of re-appointment

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**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.

**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** Alison Broyles

**Organization (if any):** OIG

**Comments:** I would to comment on  
behalf of the reappointment of  
Ed Michel.

**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

☒ Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

☐ No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.



**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** Charlotte Horne

**Organization (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** In favor of Ed Michel's

reappointment as Inspector

General of New Orleans

**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.

**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** Bobbie Jones

**Organization (if any):** OIG

**Comments:** I'd like to speak on  
supporting items for the current Inspector  
General Ed Michel if time permits.

**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

✓ Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes

No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.

**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** Rodney R. Black

**Organization (if any):** New Orleans Office of Inspector General

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.

**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** Heather Browning

**Organization (if any):** OIG

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

☒ Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

☐ No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.

**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** Sarah Lewis

**Organization (if any):** new Orleans office of  
Inspector General

**Comments:** I am strongly in support of  
reappointing Mr. Michel. His administration  
of the OIG is based on objective evaluation  
of facts and not based on political  
motivations. It is also a supportive  
work environment for staff.

**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.

**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** Amanda Barry

**Organization (if any):** New Orleans OIG

**Comments:** Speaking in favor of  
re-appointment of Ed Michel.

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**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

☒ Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

☐ No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.

**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** Jessica Henschen

**Organization (if any):** OIG

**Comments:** I would like to speak in  
support of the reappointment of  
Mr. Ed Michel

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**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.

**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** Michael Laughlin

**Organization (if any):** OIG

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.



**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** Alicia Phummed

**Organization (if any):** NOU F & self

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

☒ Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

☐ No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.

**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** Edward PARKER

**Organization (if any):** New Orleans United Front

**Comments:** This OIG should not be

retained. He is not the type of person this city

needs.

**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

☒ Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

☐ No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.

**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** Belain Bozale

**Organization (if any):** Nouf

**Comments:** Nouf

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**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

☒ Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

☐ No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.

**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** George Mahdi

**Organization (if any):** Neighborhood Unity Merge

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.

**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** Deirdre Lewis

**Organization (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** We don't need an Inspector  
General who has no  
regard for women and  
people of color. I find him  
racist and the proof is in the  
pudding. Where are the people of  
color to speak on his behalf.  
Racism & Misogyny have no place

**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

on public relations

☒ Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

☐ No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.

Sean Beavers

**Public Comment for Ethics Review Board  
Consideration of Reappointment of OIG Ed Michel**

**Name:** Annette Cranford-Hamilton

**Organization (if any):** NOAF

**Comments:** It's very nice there are a  
few people here speaking up <sup>and giving</sup> support.  
But, let's talk about the alleged comments  
he has made about 2 women in general.  
Maybe these people were not in the room  
when these comments were made. What  
about all of the cases that have been  
mishandled by this office.

**Request to Speak During Meeting (circle one)?:**

☒ Yes, I would like to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes.

☐ No, but I want my comments above in the minutes.