



Ethics Review Board for the City of New Orleans

**Board Meeting at Robert E. Smith Library, 6301 Canal Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70124, on
Monday, April 14, 2024, at 3:30 P.M.**

Minutes

1. *Call to Order.*
 - 1.1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:37 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 on March 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 OIG was represented by Ally Broyles. Mr. Michel was absent.
 - 3.3. Ms. Broyles noted that there were two promotions in the office.
 - 3.4. Ms. Broyles discussed the OIG's new report on public safety agencies and their reporting.
 - 3.5. Ms. Broyles noted that a new audit of NORD is underway.
 - 3.6. The OIG noted that it released a new letter on NOPD and new reporting protocols (LIBERS). The city was not properly reporting some information that could jeopardize certain federal grants. In 2023 alone, the city lost more than \$700,000 in grant funds because of failures in reporting compliance.
 - 3.7. The OIG reported that three new investigators are joining the office, two retired FBI agents and one retired Harbor Police officer.
 - 3.8. The OIG reported that Belden Batiste filed a public records request against the OIG that will be heard in court soon.
4. *Monthly Report of the Office of Independent Police Monitor.*
 - 4.1. The board accepted Ms. Cziment's monthly report (attached).
 - 4.2. The OIPM was represented by Ms. Cziment and the deputy police monitor.
 - 4.3. Ms. Cziment reported that the office's 24-hour hotline is now up and running.
 - 4.4. Ms. Cziment reported that her office considered the work of NOPD over carnival. She noted that crime was down this year, partly because of enhanced law enforcement. This year, carnival was a SEER 1 event at the federal level; NOPD received support from federal, state, and local law enforcement.
 - 4.5. Ms. Cziment reported that her office monitored NOPD at two cultural events involving Mardi Gras Indians. There was no misinformation on social media about NOPD. The public response was generally positive about NOPD's performance.
 - 4.5.1. Ms. Doucette asked why NOPD performed better this year. Ms. Cziment noted that the Second District has a new captain who interacts well with the community. Also, the escalated police presence during carnival may have affected the community's conduct.
 - 4.5.2. Ms. Broussard asked whether the community welcomed the police more than in years past. Ms. Cziment reported that some community leaders

will never be happy with the police presence. However, she reported that the terrorist attack on January 1st changed some attitudes about the importance of policing and protecting the public from threats both within the community and outside of the community.

- 4.6. Ms. Cziment reported about the guests who appeared on her podcast, including leadership from the Orleans Public Defenders, and the director of the NOPD crime lab.
 - 4.7. Ms. Cziment noted that she is hiring for two positions, including one AmeriCorps position for a new college graduate.
 - 4.8. Ms. Cziment noted that her office's last peer review is still underway and that it is time for the office to begin a new one.
5. *Monthly Report of the Ethics Trainer*
- 5.1. The board accepted Mr. Stiggs's monthly report (attached).
 - 5.2. Mr. Stiggs discussed the liaison program and his efforts to find and interact with department and board liaisons. He will also coordinate these efforts with the liaison award program.
6. *Report of the Executive Administrator and General Counsel.*
- 6.1. The board accepted Mr. Ciolino's monthly report (attached).
 - 6.2. Mr. Ciolino reported two board positions still need to be filled.
 - 6.3. Mr. Ciolino reported that the board must appoint QARAC committee members for both the OIG and OIPM committees.
7. *Discussion and Vote on QARAC Committee Members.*
- 7.1. After a nomination and a second, the board unanimously voted to appoint Sheridan Cooper of SUNO to serve as the ERB's appointee to the QARAC for the OIPM.
 - 7.2. After a nomination and a second, the board unanimously voted to appoint Vanessa Rodriguez of SUNO to serve as the ERB's appointee to the QARAC for the OIG.
8. *Executive Session*
- 8.1. After a motion, duly seconded, the board voted unanimously at 4:48 p.m. to go into executive session at 5:04 p.m. (1) pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes section 42:17(A)(4) to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct, namely, ERB Complaint No. 2024-02; and, (2) pursuant to Louisiana

Revised Statutes section 42:17(A)(1) to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a person who has been notified of the board's planned executive session and consented to the executive session.

- 8.2. After a motion, duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to return to general session at 5:42 p.m.
9. *Resolution of Complaint 2024-02*
 - 9.1. After a motion, duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to dismiss ERB Complaint 2024-02. The board dismissed the complaint for failure to allege a prima facie violation of the City of New Orleans Code of Governmental Ethics. The complaint presented employment related grievances that were fully litigated during a civil service hearing and appeal.
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 5:42 p.m.

* END *