



Ethics Review Board for the City of New Orleans

Board Meeting at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, 526 Pine St., New Orleans, Louisiana 70118, on Monday, June 16, 2025, 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
 - 1.2.2. ERB members absent:
 - 1.2.2.1. Patrice Sentino
 - 1.2.2.2. Michael Bagneris
 - 1.2.3. Staff member present: Dane S. Ciolino, Executive Administrator & General Counsel
 - 1.2.4. Staff member absent: 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 April 14, 2025.

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 Ed Michel and general counsel Michael Laughlin
 - 3.3. Mr. Michel reported on his office's participation in a US State Department program to educate developing nations with setting up governmental oversight.
 - 3.4. Mr. Michel noted that his office is beginning a new audit of NORD.
 - 3.5. Mr. Michel reported that Todd Morell, a former city employee, and another city employee recently pleaded guilty in United States District Court to engaging in various fraud schemes.
 - 3.6. Mr. Michel noted that his office recently hired three new investigators, most of which came from the FBI.
 - 3.7. Mr. Michel noted that his office recently released a report on the Department of Safety and Permits Third Party Inspections Audit.
 - 3.7.1. The office found that the New Orleans Department of Safety and Permits (S&P) did not implement adequate protocols for inspections performed by City-licensed third party inspectors.
 - 3.7.2. The audit also found that third party inspectors failed to comply with the S&P policies and procedures that were in place, leaving the City vulnerable to significant public safety hazards and litigation.of the city's Safety and Permits Department and its permitting practices.
 - 3.7.3. For a summary of the report, see <https://nola.oig.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/OIG-In-Brief-Safety-and-Permits-Third-Party-Inspections-Audit-Report.pdf>
 - 3.8. Ms. Richardson asked for the OIG to make sure to get its monthly report to each board member on the fifth of each 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 OIPM was represented by Ms. Cziment.
 - 4.3. Ms. Cziment reported on the numbers of mediations, etc., as set forth in the report.
 - 4.4. Ms. Cziment noted that her office monitored two officer-involved shootings, including by attending one autopsy.

- 4.5. Ms. Cziment discussed and highlighted various aspects of her office's annual report. She noted that her office would provide a more detailed presentation at a later meeting.
- 4.6. Ms. Cziment noted that she discussed with a national media outlet the use of facial recognition technology by the NOPD.
- 4.7. Ms. Cziment interviewed Emily Maw on her podcast. Also had Lauren Sapp on her podcast. Both are posted on the office's website.
- 4.8. The City of New Orleans has filed a motion to be relieved from complying with the federal consent decree. The decree is still in effect. The DOJ formally rescinded their findings as to the Louisiana State Police.
- 4.9. Ms. Cziment discussed her comments on the shooting of a dog by Officer Burmaster. The matter was closed by NOPD. There is currently civil litigation pending on the civil liability of the city.
 - 4.9.1. The City Attorney wrote a letter to Ms. Cziment requesting that she cease and desist making comments on the case.
 - 4.9.2. Ms. Cziment responded with her own letter.
 - 4.9.3. Ms. Cziment believes that the City Attorney's letter contained inaccuracies, which she discussed with the board.
 - 4.9.4. Ms. Broussard asked whether her office issued a report on this. Ms. Cziment responded that her office had not.
 - 4.9.5. Mr. Broussard asked whether the City Attorney was correct in stating that the wrong standard was used. Ms. Cziment responded that there was some confusion in this regard, particularly between the Use of Force Board and the NOPD Training Academy. She noted that there was also a change in personnel on the Use of Force Board.
 - 4.9.6. Ms. Doucette asked whether the OIPM had any rules on media contact. Ms. Cziment responded that her office does not comment on ongoing disciplinary or criminal matters. This was a civil matter.
 - 4.9.7. Several board members noted that Ms. Cziment needs to be very cautious in speaking with the press because of the risk of being misquoted. She acknowledged this and agreed.
 - 4.9.8. Ms. Callia asked why Ms. Cziment discussed a matter with the press when her office did not officially report on the matter. Ms. Cziment noted that her office actually provided oversight regarding this shooting event, even though her office did not issue a formal report. Ms. Cziment also noted that such press opportunities are important to educate the public about

NOPD oversight. Also, the dog shooting has lead to a number of changes with how the NOPD deals with pet shootings.

4.9.9. Ms. Richardson thanked Ms. Cziment for sending the ERB copies of the letters prior to the meeting.

4.9.10. Ms. Callia asked Ms. Cziment to send the board copies of the OIPM media policy.

4.9.11. Ms. Callia also asked Ms. Cziment what her plan was for addressing the inaccuracies in the letter from the City Attorney. Ms. Cziment said that she had no plan because she had already addressed everything.

5. *Monthly Report of the Ethics Trainer*

5.1. The board accepted Mr. Stiggs's monthly report (attached).

5.2. Mr. Stiggs did not attend the meeting.

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 that the mayor's position has been filled through the appointment of Michael Bagneris. However, one board position (Dillard) still needs to be filled by the mayor's office.

6.3. Mr. Ciolino reported that the City Council and mayor must appoint committee members for both the OIPM committees.

7. *Discussion of Request for Advisory Opinion*

7.1. The Board deferred consideration of this request to the next meeting.

7.2. Mr. Ciolino will circulate the full advisory request to the board before the next meeting.

8. *Discussion and Vote on Officers.*

8.1. After a nomination and a second, the board unanimously voted to appoint Dawn Broussard as chair.

8.2. After a nomination and a second, the board unanimously voted to appoint Patrice Sentino as vice-chair.

8.3. After a nomination and a second, the board unanimously voted to appoint Sally Richardson as secretary.

9. *Adjournment.*

9.1. A motion was made to adjourn the ERB meeting.

9.2. The motion was seconded.

9.3. The ERB unanimously voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

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