



Ethics Review Board for the City of New Orleans

**Board Meeting at New Orleans City Hall, Council Chamber, New Orleans, Louisiana, on
Monday, September 15, 2025, at 3:30 P.M.**

Minutes

1. *Call to Order.*
 - 1.1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:35 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:
 - 1.2.2.1. 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 August 11, 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 several years ago that OPSO should be using BRASS for purchasing and warned of cyberattack risks. Now, the OPSO must use BRASS as per city council ordinance (pending AG review). Also, the OPSO recently was the victim of a cyberattack.
 - 3.4. Mr. Michel reported that his office is investigating a city tow truck driver for personally collecting cash to release immobilized vehicles. The employee was later arrested. The matter is now in the judicial system.
 - 3.5. Mr. Michel reported that his office continues to investigate contractors and other operations at the Safety and Permits Department. Misconduct in this regard can put citizens at risk. His office has worked with the state board for contractors to assure that only licensed contractors are obtaining permits. In the next few weeks, the OIG will release a new report on Safety and Permits.
 - 3.6. The OIG continues to work on public corruption matters in conjunction with the federal government, including on the Cantrell and Vappie investigations.
 - 3.7. The OIG peer review has been completed by the Association of Inspectors General. His office received a favorable review from the AIG, being declared "Highly Functional" across the entire spectrum of office responsibilities.
 - 3.8. Mr. Michel reported that his office has engaged in training of ethics officials from foreign countries.
 - 3.9. Ms. Doucette asked whether the OIG shared its peer review report with the board. Mr. Michel responded that he had done so via email.
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. Ms. Cziment was accompanied by Sharonda Williams, counsel for the office.
 - 4.3. Ms. Cziment reported the numbers of complaints and responses her office considered (as set forth in her monthly written report). She also reported on the number of mediations this year.
 - 4.4. Ms. Cziment noted that her office recently began its Community District Mediation Program. Every patrol officer in two districts (First and Second) has

been given information about the program. She noted that the program is a true collaboration with NOPD.

- 4.5. The OIPM has been consulting with city council and NOPD members about facial recognition technology deployment in the city.
- 4.6. Ms. Cziment reported on a new employee of the OIPM from the OIIP. She is going to serve on projects and to work with the community. She will plan public fora.
- 4.7. Ms. Cziment reported that in October 2025 the OIPM will give an award for excellence in constitutional policing to the NOPD Police Academy recruit scoring the highest scores on testing related to constitutional limitations on police practices.
- 4.8. Ms. Sentino queried whether the OIPM tracks the success of mediations. Ms. Cziment responded that her office surveys participants after conclusion of mediations. The office tracks several metrics and reports on them in its OIPM annual report each year. She committed to see if she could share data more often than annually.
- 4.9. Ms. Richardson asked whether other mayoral candidates attended the recent forum hosted by her office. Ms. Richardson noted that one candidate appeared in the OIPM report and that Ms. Cziment should be aware that this may cause some to raise concerns about independence. Ms. Cziment noted that Councilman Oliver Thomas was at the forum because he sponsored related ordinances; he appeared at the forum as the sponsor of those ordinances rather than as a candidate.

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 one board position (Dillard) still needs to be filled by the mayor's office. Valerie Bouldin of the mayor's office reported that she is waiting on Dillard to forward three nominees to the mayor.
- 6.3. Mr. Ciolino reported that the City Council and mayor still need to appoint members to the QARAC for the OIPM. The ERB made its appointments many months ago.
- 6.4. The QARAC for the OIG is finishing up its work and will soon hold a public hearing.

7. *Discussion and Vote to Approve or to Amend Payroll/Administrative Procedures for Processing ADP Payroll for the Following: Executive Administrator, Inspector General, Independent Police Monitor, and Ethics Trainer.*
 - 7.1. The board discussed the problem discussed in the memorandum with Mr. Ciolino, Mr. Michel, and Mr. Laughlin.
 - 7.2. Mr. Michel noted that his office has made recommendations for the improvement of the ADP system.
 - 7.3. Ms. Richardson noted that this process does not have good optics, even though no one is accusing anyone of fraud.
 - 7.4. The board voted to defer the issue to the next meeting, but voted unanimously to continue processing payroll as it is currently done until then.
8. *Periodic Salary Adjustments for OIG And OIPM Discussion.*
 - 8.1. Mr. Ciolino will get salary histories to the board before the next board meeting.
 - 8.2. The board did not vote.
9. *Discussion and Vote on Request for Advisory Opinion 2025-01 From Employee of the City of New Orleans Department of Health Regarding Political Activities*
 - 9.1. The board suggested that the board clarify that the ERB is giving no opinion on “federal, state, or city laws.”
 - 9.2. With that amendment, the board voted unanimously to approve the opinion and to distribute it to the Health Department.
10. *Executive Session Pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes Section 42:17(A)(4) to Discuss Investigative Proceedings Regarding Allegations of Misconduct, Namely, ERB Complaint No. 2025-02 Through 2025-05 and Pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes Section 42:17(A)(1) to Discuss the Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of a Person.*
 - 10.1. The board went into executive session at 5:01 p.m.
 - 10.2. The board went into general session at 5:43 p.m.
11. *Disposition of Complaints*
 - 11.1. 2025-02. The board voted unanimously to dismiss this complaint for failure to allege a violation of the City of New Orleans. The board considered the matter in its supervisory capacity as a personnel matter during executive session.
 - 11.2. 2025-03. The board voted unanimously to refer the matter to the OIG for investigation as to whether possible nepotism exists at a NORD facility.

- 11.3. 2025-04. The board voted unanimously to dismiss the complaint for failure to allege a violation of the Code of Ethics of the City of New Orleans.
- 11.4. 2025-05. The board voted unanimously to dismiss the complaint for failure to allege a violation of the Code of Ethics of the City of New Orleans.
12. *Adjournment.*
 - 12.1. A motion was made to adjourn the ERB meeting.
 - 12.2. The motion was seconded.
 - 12.3. The ERB unanimously voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

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