Ethics Review Board for the City of New Orleans

Board Meeting at City Council Chambers, New Orleans City Hall on August 18, 2026, 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.Holly Callia, Chair

            1.2.1.2.Nick Harris

            1.2.1.3.Tyrone Jefferson

            1.2.1.4.Ceeon Quiett-Smith

            1.2.1.5.Voris Vigee

        1.2.2. ERB members absent

            1.2.2.1.Sally Richardson

            1.2.2.2.Cherrell Sims Taplin

        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 July 21, 2026.

3. *Monthly Report of the Office of the Inspector General.,*

3.1. The board accepted Mr. Michel's monthly report (attached to agenda).

3.2. The OIG was represented by IG Ed Michel and general counsel Michael Laughlin.

3.3. Mr. Michel described the OIG Academy that his office will host next month for citizens and city employees.

3.4. Mr. Michel reported that his office's annual work plan will be released September 1, 2026.

3.5. Mr. Michel reported that his office will soon release reports relating to NORD and S&WB.

3.6. Mr. Michel noted that his investigation efforts recently led to the arrest of an NOPD officer for overtime-related payroll fraud.

3.7. Mr. Michel reported that his office recently addressed response times for EMS. The audit resulted in two major findings specifically noted in that report. EMS recently announced that it will hire additional personnel to address some of the shortcomings noted in the report.

3.8. Mr. Michel noted that his office continues to monitor wrongdoing at the NOPD, particularly wrongdoing relating to payroll fraud. An NOPD office was arrested on August 7th for payroll fraud with loss numbers exceeding $100,000.00. Some of the fraud resulted from block billing and shared login credentials of managers.

3.9. Mr. Michel noted that his office has saved the city millions of dollars, but that much work needs to be done.

3.10. Mr. Harris asked for more clarification about nonprofit abuse. Mr. Michel clarified that some nonprofit groups, or alleged nonprofit groups, may have received tax exemptions that were not appropriate. That is the subject of his office's investigations.

3.11. Mr. Harris asked for more information about the OIG Academy for city workers. Mr. Michel provided this information. Mr. Harris suggested that the OIG can provide such a service for neighborhood leaders.

3.12. Mr. Harris asked Mr. Michel for a visit at his office. Mr. Michel said he is welcomed anytime.

3.13. Ms. Vigee asked Mr. Michel about the process for changing ordinances to better address fraud, waste and abuse. He noted that the city council can do that, and Ms. Callia stated that the board can make recommendations in that regard.

4. *Monthly Report of the Office of Independent Police Monitor.*

4.1. The board accepted Ms. Cziment's monthly report (attached to agenda).

4.2. The OIPM was represented by Ms. Cziment and her deputy.

4.3. Ms. Cziment reported that her office received 10 complaints of officer misconduct last month.

4.4. Ms. Cziment reported about and described her office's role in the NOPD disciplinary process.

4.5. Ms. Cziment noted that her office also responds to critical incidents when NOPD uses force.

4.6. Ms. Cziment noted that her office also conducts a mediation program involving complaints with NOPD officers. In 2026, the office held 16 mediation sessions.

4.7. Ms. Callia noted that the overtime issues with NOPD officers is concerning. One of the problems in 2025 was that there were two large events that demanded high numbers of overtime officers. Also, there are reduced numbers in the force that demands more overtime of the existing officers.

4.8. Mr. Harris noted that he is interested in how NOPD is going to improve response time. This should be addressed, particularly in New Orleans East and other under-served communities. Ms. Callia noted that the OIG is well-suited to deal with some of these conversations in the context of audits of NOPD and communication organizations.

4.9. Mr. Harris emphasized how important it is to protect New Orleans East. Ms. Cziment noted that the city does not have funding for a major NOPD hub in that area.

4.10. Mr. Jefferson asked about shortages of officers. Ms. Cziment noted that non-commissioned persons are being deputized to deal with certain traffic and minor matters.

4.11. Ms. Vigee asked how many officers are needed. Ms. Cziment did not provide a definitive number, but noted that NOPD is aggressively recruiting officers.

4.12. Ms. Smith asked about how many people serve as mediators. Ms. Cziment noted that her training program includes training officers and citizens in her cohort classes. In 2027, her office will train more volunteers.

4.13. Ms. Smith noted that there are interdisciplinary grants available for more community interactions.

5. *Monthly Report of the Ethics Trainer*

5.1. The board, after a motion that was duly seconded, unanimously voted to take Mr. Stiggs's report out of order.

5.2. The board accepted Mr. Stiggs's monthly report (attached to agenda).

5.3. Mr. Stiggs reported that he has been brainstorming how to improve the awards program to expand it beyond liaisons. He distributed materials to the board reflecting his new nomination process for awards. He will send out the materials next week to city employees.

5.4. Mr. Stiggs reported that he hopes to receive nominations from many departments within the city.

5.5. Ms. Callia suggested that Mr. Stiggs should meet with the new board members to discuss his duties and responsibilities.

5.6. Board members gave Mr. Stiggs suggestions on his handout materials for ethics training and awards nominations.

5.7. The Board thanked Mr. Stiggs for his work.

6. *Report of the Executive Administrator and General Counsel*

6.1. The board accepted Mr. Ciolino's monthly report (attached to agenda).

6.2. Mr. Ciolino reported that one board position (UNO) must be filled by the mayor's office. Ms. Callia will serve until a nominee is confirmed by the Council.

6.3. Mr. Ciolino reported that the City Council and the mayor still need to appoint members to the QARAC for the OIPM. The ERB made its appointments many months ago.

7. *Election of Officers*

7.1. Mr. Ciolino explained the officer positions that need to be filled and the roles of the officers. He also explained the terms for each officer.

7.2. Mr. Jefferson thanked Ms. Callia for her services as Chair.

7.3. Ms. Callia explained the responsibilities and time commitment involved with serving as Chair of the board.

7.4. Ms. Smith nominated Mr. Harris to serve as Chair. The nomination was seconded. The board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Harris as Chair.

7.5. Mr. Harris nominated Mr. Jefferson to serve as Vice-Chair. The nomination was seconded. The board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Jefferson as Vice-Chair.

7.6. Ms. Vigee nominated Ms. Smith to serve as Secretary. The nomination was seconded. The board voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Smith as Secretary.

8. *Selection of Meeting Dates for Remainder of 2026*

8.1. Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

8.2. Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

8.3. Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

8.4. No meeting in December 2026.

9. *Executive Session Pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes Section 42:17(A)(4) to Discuss Investigative Proceedings Regarding Allegations of Misconduct, Namely, ERB Complaints No. 2025-07 Through 2025-08, and 2026-01 Through 2026-05.*

9.1. Motion made and seconded to defer consideration of all complaints until the next ERB meeting.

9.2. The board voted unanimously to defer this agenda item until September.

9.3. Deferred until September 15, 2026.

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 5:32 p.m.

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