

The Ethics Review Board
City of New Orleans

Tuesday, February 26, 2008
10:30 a.m.

Xavier University, Student Center, Room 205C

Present: Rev. Kevin Wildes, S. J., Chair, Rev. Cornelius Tilton, Vice Chair, Dean Winston Brown, Professor Kathryn Lorio, and Dr. Beverly Favre.

Excused: Mrs. Leah Chase, Mrs. Elizabeth Nalty

Guests: Robert A. Cerasoli, Inspector General, Marvin Doyal, David Marcello, Gail Howard, Executive Assistant to Rev. Kevin Wildes, S.J. and Lauren Wilbert of NOLA.com

Fr. Wildes called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Rev. Tilton moved to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2008 meeting, Winston Brown seconded – motion passed.

Rev. Tilton, chair of the subcommittee on rules, stated that the subcommittee had met and thoroughly reviewed and discussed final changes to the draft of the Rules presented at the January, 2008 meeting. After review and discussion of the changes made to the draft by the subcommittee, Rev. Tilton moved for adoption of the rules, seconded by Dr. Beverly Favre – motion unanimously passed.

Rev. Wildes mentioned that David Marcello of the Tulane Public Law Center and Robert Cerasoli, IG, had been going to Baton Rouge and were in discussions by telephone, with various legislators regarding HB 80 that was presented to the legislature by Representative J.P. Morrell during the Louisiana Special Session on Ethics. The vote on the final bill, after numerous amendments, passed and will be signed by Governor Jindal. A copy will be secured to be presented to the ERB members.

Mr. Cerasoli advised that he recently had lunch with Mayor Nagin and had introduced his two first assistants. A brief verbal biography of Mr. Leonard C. Odom, who will be in the OIG at the end of March as Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, was given by Mr. Cerasoli. He also stated that Messers. Doyal and Odom are two of the top people in their field and will serve the citizens of New Orleans well. Mr. Cerasoli also stated that his office is continuing its search for qualified employees.

Rev. Tilton stated that the board thanks David Marcello and Robert Cerasoli for their work on the legislation. Rev. Wildes also wanted to include thanks to Tommy Screen of Loyola for his work.

There was discussion by the ERB of various items that were not included in the legislation and the necessity to move forward in the regular session to add additional legislation. There was a question asked by an ERB member as to the level of support given by the New Orleans delegation.

The members discussed the need for an Executive Director of the ERB and the need for that person to work closely with the OIG. It was suggested that the OIG participate in the search with the ERB. Rev. Wildes suggested that there should be a cooperative agreement between the ERB and the OIG with regard to personnel as technically the ERB and OIG budgets are combined.

Rev. Wildes also stated that the ERB and OIG will prepare a report of their work through March, 2008.

Mr. Cerasoli discussed the need for education of City employees with regard to ethics and its role in City government. An education program will be developed for City employees. Mr. Cerasoli stated that he mentioned this to Mayor Nagin and Dr. Brenda Hatfield in their recent meeting, and they were pleased to have such a program offered to City employees.

Rev. Wildes stated that he will work on a draft of the report by the ERB and submit to the ERB members for review.

There being no further business to discuss a motion to adjourn was made by Winston Brown and seconded by Dr. Beverly Favre. Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.