

The Ethics Review Board
City of New Orleans

Tuesday, April 5, 2011
3:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
City of New Orleans
1300 Perdido Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Present: Rev. Cornelius Tilton, Chair; Betsy Nalty, Vice-Chair; Okyeame Haley, Secretary; Michael Cowan; Laura Rouzan

Staff Present: Steven Scheckman, General Counsel to ERB

Guests: Edouard Quatrevaux, IG; Susan Hutson, IPM

Rev. Cornelius Tilton called the meeting to order at 3:01 P.M.

The Chair, Rev. Cornelius Tilton, welcomed the Ethics Review Board's newest Member, Laura Rouzan, a nominee of Dillard University appointed by the Mayor.

Betsy Nalty moved to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2011, meeting. Okyeame Haley seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

Inspector General Edouard Quatrevaux reported and explained to the Board that the OIG has three (30 performance goals identified in its September 2010 Strategic Plan:

1. 1st is RELEVANCE

- Must select right issues for review
- Did Plan assess risks? Answer: YES
- Did process solicit concerns of administration/council? Answer: YES
- Were resources assigned based on risk assessment? Answer: YES
- Must deliver reports in time for decision-makers
 - % assignments completed on-time? Invalid measure: can't predict when documents will be received.
 - Administration and council views of timeliness? Admin: no response; several council members split between "agreed" and "strongly agreed."

2. 2nd GOAL is CREDIBILITY

- Was OIG staff free of impairments to objectivity? YES. Certification of independence in all OIG reports.

- Was OIG staff competent?
 - 68% staff have advanced degrees
 - 100% met continuing education requirements
 - 100% of audit and investigative staff are certified?
 - Did methodology meet professional standards?
 - 100% reviews met standards
 - 100% draft findings sustained in final reports

3. 3rd GOAL is COMMUNICATION

- Instances of errors or omissions in final reports? Answer: NONE
- % of recommendations accepted? Answer: 88% OVERALL
- Instances of failure to meet form and content expectations?
Answer: NONE IDENTIFIED

The Independent Police Monitor Susan Hutson was then introduced by Inspector General Edouard Quatrevaux and she introduced DPM, Simone Levine, including her qualifications as a public integrity prosecutor, someone whose worked on whistleblower, racial profiling and stop/frisk issues. Ms. Hutson then discussed the IPM Annual Report which was previously disseminated to the ERB and which highlighted accomplishments for 2010: Creating an atmosphere of trust with NOPD, which has allowed us to share information and to sign the MOU between our departments. Ms. Hutson also discussed the new IPM/PIB database which will house the early warning system and complaint investigations, so the IPM can have access to them at our fingertips and review them quicker. In response to a question from Dr. Cowan, Ms. Hutson further advised the system will help us detect officers who are at risk sooner, review cases more thoroughly and disseminate reports about how NOPD polices itself including the types of complaints, the demographics of complainants/officers, and the penalties issued.

The Chair, Cornelius Tilton, further noted that the Board had received and reviewed the OIG's 2010 Annual Report.

Elizabeth Nalty moved to adopt and approve a revised ERB Mission Statement prepared by Board member Michael Cowan to reflect the ERB's emphasis on education as follows:

The Ethics Review Board seeks to uphold and enforce high ethical standards and promote public confidence in the government of the City of New Orleans by overseeing a program of ethics education, issuing advisory opinions, promulgating rules regarding the interpretation and enforcement of the city's Code of Ethics, proposing revisions to that code, referring cases for investigation on referral or complaint, and imposing fines.

Okyeame Haley seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

Steven Scheckman reported to the Board that thus far fifty-five (55) applications have been received for the position of Executive Director of the ERB.

Michael Cowan made a motion to enter into executive session, Elizabeth Nalty seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

The Board entered into executive session at 3:25 P.M.

Okyeame Haley made a motion to resume open session, Elizabeth Nalty seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

The Board resumed open session at 4:58 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.