

Ethics Review Board
City of New Orleans

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

3:30pm – 6pm
East New Orleans Regional Library
Meeting Room (First Floor)
5641 Read Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70127

Minutes

Present: Dr. Michael Cowan, Chair; Allen Miller, Secretary; Dr. Joe Ricks, Jr., Elizabeth Nalty, Howard Rodgers, III
Absent: James Brown, Vice Chair
Staff: Steve Scheckman, General Counsel
Felicia R. Brown, Executive Director
Guest(s): Ed Quatrevaux, Inspector General
Susan Hutson, Independent Police Monitor

A quorum being present, the chair called the meeting to order at 3:34pm. Mr. Rodgers moved to approve the minutes of January 8, 2014; a second was offered by Ms. Nalty. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Cowan recognized Ed Quatrevaux, Inspector General. Mr. Quatrevaux provided a PowerPoint presentation of the OIG 2013 Annual Report. He highlighted the savings resulting from OIG efforts and noted the agency's accomplishments within its various divisions. In response to Dr. Ricks's inquiry regarding the acceptance of recommendations, the IG indicated there's no national standard for reporting in this regard. Mr. Quatrevaux further noted, in reply to Dr. Cowan's question, that behavior for terminated city employees ranged from insubordination to criminal activity. Mr. Quatrevaux also explained the cooperative relationship the OIG has developed with the Landrieu administration, as well as its investigative role and interface with the FBI and United States Attorney's Office.

The chair recognized Ms. Susan Hutson, Independent Police Monitor. Ms. Hutson noted recent trainings in which the OIPM had participated as well as the following: 31 complaint contacts had been received (18 were filed as complaints and 5 of which there were no complaints filed); she explained the difference in how the OIPM and NOPD's Public Integrity Bureau use IPro (database software); 11 outreach events, in particular engagements with the Vietnamese and Hispanic communities and HANO Police Association. Ms. Hutson indicated the OIPM annual report will be issued March 31 and provided to the ERB. Her office continues to respond to critical incidents and is currently monitoring developments in the recent Holly Grove shooting.

A discussion ensued regarding professional ethics associations. The staff and board discussed the benefits of continued COGEL membership and participation in the COGEL conference, and the

executive director indicated how the two additional entities: Ethics and Compliance Officer Association (ECO) and Society of Corporate Compliance & Ethics (SCCE) were identified. The consensus of the board was to have the executive director explore other ethics professionals and/or entities that might provide professional development to the board and report during the next board meeting.

Background information was provided with regard to the draft Media Protocol and a discussion ensued in this regard. Dr. Ricks moved to adopt the ERB Media Protocol as drafted (see attachment to minutes); a second was offered by Mr. Rodgers. All were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Miller reported he and Mr. Brown have conducted an initial meeting with both parties in working out the OIG-OIPM MOU. A follow-up meeting is being scheduled and additional information should be available during the next meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding the report from Judith Nadler regarding the pilot of ethics education. There was discussion of next steps; including possibly continuing to retain Ms. Nadler (the executive director indicated concerns might be raised in the procurement of such services, referencing responses received from the city attorney's office in response to inquiries last year about continuation of services); role of staff in the education process; target audiences and delivery format for training. The board's consensus was to reconstitute the ethics education working group, consisting of Dr. Cowan, Dr. Ricks and Mr. Rodgers. The working group will meet with the executive director and a report will be made to the full board.

A discussion ensued regarding the staff evaluation process, with particular attention to timing and the inclusion of numerical ratings for the performance standards. With respect to incorporation of a numerical rating, Dr. Ricks indicated he will be able to synthesize comments and remarks without numeric values. Mr. Miller moved that the board conduct staff evaluations beginning October 15 with a completion date of December 15. Mr. Rodgers offered a second; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Miller reviewed the draft ERB self-evaluation instrument. A discussion regarding the purpose of the process, namely as a reflective exercise and to assess member contribution/service. Mr. Miller requested feedback within 30 days or prior to the next board meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Nalty and a second by Mr. Rodgers, the board adjourned into executive session, at 4:54pm.

The board resumed the public meeting on a motion by Dr. Ricks, with a second by Mr. Miller at 5:03pm. The motion passed unanimously.

At 5:04pm Dr. Ricks moved that the board adjourn; a second was offered by Mr. Miller. The motion passed unanimously.