

**Ethics Review Board  
City of New Orleans**

**Board Meeting**

**April 23, 2018  
3:30 P.M. – 5:10 P.M.**

**City Council Chambers | 1300 Perdido Street | New Orleans, Louisiana 70112**

**Minutes**

Present: Mr. Allen Miller, Chair; Mr. James Brown, Vice Chair; Dr. Joe Ricks; Mr. Howard Rodgers; Ms. Elizabeth Livingston de Calderon; Dr. Michael Cowan

Call to Order: At 3:35 p.m., a quorum being present, the Chair called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes of March 26, 2018 (Chair).

On a motion by Mr. Brown and seconded by Dr. Cowan, the board, with Ms. De Calderon abstaining, unanimously approved the minutes of the March 26, 2018, board meeting.

2. Inspector General's Report (Chair).

Mr. Harper reported that he met on April 12, 2018 with the Sewerage & Water Board regarding risk assessment and prioritizing investigation. He also has met with the interim director and key managers. The meetings were productive.

Mr. Harper reported that his office is working on a complaint regarding parking by S&WB employees in handicapped spaces with counterfeit tags. At least 26 employees using such tags were identified.

Mr. Harper reported that the 2017 annual report was released.

Mr. Harper discussed the embedded fraud monitor at the Louis Armstrong Airport. This monitor will remain in place until the end of the construction project in 2019. This work has caused a better bond rating, more flights, and lower fees to airlines.

Mr. Harper reported that he is looking into the feasibility of embedding a fraud monitor at the S&WB.

Mr. Harper reported that he conducted introductory meetings with NOPD leaders, and outgoing members of the City Council, among other local, state, and federal leaders.

Mr. Harper committed to release reports for comment prior to public release.

Mr. Harper declined to discuss ongoing investigations, but noted that he has terminated no ongoing investigations.

3. Independent Police Monitor's Report (Chair).

Ms. Hutson reported that her office received 19 mediation referrals. She reported that her office is monitoring 6 cases. Her office is monitoring 23 disciplinary hearings and 2 use-of-force incidents.

Ms. Hutson reported on the new website interface for the OIPM and its up-to-date dashboard and that its office is analyzing new data.

4. Discussion with Chief Harrison, New Orleans Police Department (Chair).

Agenda Item No. 4, was taken out of order as second discussion issue. NOPD Chief Harrison, IPM Susan Hutson, various IPM employees and NOPD employees discussed efforts to provide data and access to data.

Ms. Hutson reported that the OIPM is developing a new process of gathering and analyzing data, but they have encountered issues with interacting with the information technology staff with the NOPD. She and her staff complained that they have to physically visit NOPD to access the data; they would prefer remote access but there are VPN/firewall issues.

Chief Harrison reported that he believes that there is a productive relationship between NOPD and the OIPM. He reported that the OIPM can access data from the Public Integrity Bureau at any time. He did note that there are security issues with remote access. Nevertheless, his staff reported that there are two dedicated computers at NOPD for the OIPM to access data. All access is "through the application" and not raw access through the back end of the database. This is necessary to avoid data corruption and to assure security.

The OIPM reported that it still would like access to raw data.

Dr. Cowan noted that it is “difficult to understand where we are” after the discussion. Mr. Miller agreed and suggested a future appearance at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Miller implored the NOPD and the OIPM to get the work done cooperatively and to do what needs to be done to resolve data-access issues.

5. General Counsel’s Report (Chair).

The General Counsel reported no new complaints. He also reported that he would be responsible for taking minutes at this and future meetings because of a staffing reorganization within the OIG.

The General Counsel discussed possible entities to conduct the OIPM triennial peer review, including PARC. He reported that he would discuss with the OIPM and its counsel regarding the date for the next peer review.

6. Ethics Education Training Report (Chair).

Ms. Hackett reported that trainings are scheduled in the future for new incoming City Council staff in May. Trainings will take place for the mayor’s office and staff in May and June. These offices reached out to her for training.

Ms. Hackett reported on the progress of her “special project.” She identified 21 ethics liaisons in city government and had focus groups with ten of them regarding the culture of ethics. More meetings are to be scheduled. She reported the culture “mood” is mixed and that there is room for improvement.

Dr. Cowan noted that the report was encouraging.

7. Adjournment (Chair).

At 5:09 p.m., Dr. Cowan moved that the meeting adjourn, Dr. Ricks seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned.