

**Ethics Review Board
City of New Orleans**

Board Meeting

**May 16, 2018
3:35 P.M. – 4:12 P.M.**

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

Minutes

Present: Allen Miller, Chair; Brandon Boutin, Joe Ricks; Howard Rodgers; Elizabeth Livingston de Calderon.

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

1. Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2018 (Chair).

On a motion by Mr. Ricks and seconded by Mr. Rodgers, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 23, 2018, board meeting.

2. Inspector General's Report (Chair).

William Bonney, Deputy Inspector General of Investigations, provided the following report.

The IG's office uncovered credit card abuse by Tonnette "Toni" Rice, the former leader of the New Orleans Multicultural Tourism Network, a 501(c)(3) organization created to bring minority tourists to New Orleans. Ms. Rice was arrested for allegedly misappropriating more than \$70,000.

Mr. Bonney reported that the City Council recently wrote to the S&WB to remind it of its obligation to make reports. The letter referenced the OIG investigations into the S&WB.

Mr. Rodgers questioned Mr. Bonney about the status of prosecutions of S&WB employees. Mr. Bonney reported that one employee was found not guilty. However, he reported that the S&WB has terminated employees caught selling S&WB property.

Ms. Calderon asked about a recent letter by Councilperson Stacy Head identifying potential future IG investigations. Mr. Bonney reported that he had not seen the letter.

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

IPM Susan Hutson reported that her office is monitoring 7 cases; that it is following 1 firearm discharge and 3 use-of-force matters; that it has received 4 complaints from NOPD officers; that it conducted 8 mediations.

Mr. Ricks requested that the IPM provide the board with monthly spreadsheets. Ms. Hutson agreed to email the spreadsheets prior to each board meeting.

Ms. Hutson reported that her office is still working with NOPD to obtain the "final numbers" to prepare her offices annual report. The NOPD is being very helpful with summary data on stop-and-frisk and other issues. The process is going "very well."

Ms. Hutson reported that her staff recently met with NOPD to review all information systems. The meetings were "tremendously helpful." She noted that NOPD is providing her staff with two computers to access data. In addition, Kristen Morales of the IG's office has been helping with connectivity issues.

Mr. Rodgers questioned Ms. Hutson about her office's recent workshop for sex workers. The IPM promised to get more information to the board about the workshop. She reported that the workshop was part of her office's regular outreach. The workshop was prompted by reports of police officers taking cell-phone photographs of nightclub workers and sex workers. The goal of the workshop was to teach the workers their rights vis-à-vis the NOPD. She reported that her office did not issue the flyer that prompted Mr. Rodgers's questions.

Ms. Hutson reported that her deputy, Ursula Price, will soon leave the OIPM. The board thanked Ms. Price for her service.

4. General Counsel's Report (Chair).

General Counsel, Dane S. Ciolino, reported no new complaints.

Mr. Ciolino reported that he fielded several telephone calls for information about the board and reporting misconduct.

Mr. Ciolino discussed with the board the timing for the next triennial review for the Independent Police Monitor. The earliest required date for the review will be 2020.

Mr. Ciolino discussed with the board the need to arrange for periodic review of the board and a subsequent report to the City Council. Mr. Cowan will take the lead on interacting with the City Council on review of the ERB.

5. Ethics Education Training Report (Chair).

Ethics trainer, Toni Hackett, reported that she has scheduled trainings with the new administration, including the city council. She is trying to schedule with the mayor's office.

Mr. Ricks asked Ms. Hackett about liaison meetings. Ms. Hackett reported that the airport, law department and sanitation department had such meetings. She reported that she wants to take a "deeper dive" and respond better to the needs of each department.

Ms. Calderon asked Ms. Hackett how many people have been trained. Ms. Hackett reported that she conducts approximately 10 live trainings per year and that approximately 250/year are trained at live events (in addition to on-line training). Ms. Hackett reported that all employees must get "standard" training every year that covers basic ethics topics, but that she attempts to "tailor" her events to each agency.

6. Miscellaneous (Chair).

Mr. Miller reported that leadership changes are coming to the board. He reported that a new board member will have to be appointed from Xavier to replace him. He also noted that the board should consider a future board retreat to discuss its work over the next 5-7 years. Finally, Mr. Miller noted that the board should consider conducting longer meetings every other month instead of meetings every month.

7. Adjournment (Chair).

At 4:12 p.m., Dr. Ricks moved that the meeting adjourn; Ms. Calderon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned.