



Ethics Review Board for the City of New Orleans

Board Meeting of January 23, 2020 at 3:30 P.M.

City Council Chamber, City Hall, New Orleans, Louisiana

Minutes

1. *Call to Order.*
 - 1.1. Board members present:
 - 1.1.1. James Brown.
 - 1.1.2. Elizabeth Livingston de Calderon.
 - 1.1.3. Joe Ricks (Chair).
 - 1.1.4. Howard Rodgers.
 - 1.2. Board member absent:
 - 1.2.1. Michael Cowan.
 - 1.2.2. Monique Gougisha Doucette.
 - 1.3. Staff member present: Dane S. Ciolino, Executive Administrator and General Counsel.
 - 1.4. At 3:37 p.m., the Chair declared that a quorum of the board was present and commenced the meeting.
 - 1.5. The agenda for the meeting is attached.
2. *Approval of the Minutes.* The Board unanimously approved the minutes for the December 16, 2019 Board Meeting. Ms. Calderon abstained from voting because she was not present at the meeting.

3. *Discussion of Monthly Report of the Office of Inspector General.*
 - 3.1. The Office of the Inspector General was represented by Derry Harper and staff members.
 - 3.2. Mr. Harper summarized the “pipeline” portion of the OIG monthly report (attached).
 - 3.3. Mr. Harper briefly discussed the Audubon response.
 - 3.3.1. Mr. Harper noted that the response did not answer the question as to whether purchases violated the state constitution. However, Mr. Harper noted that the Audubon staff agreed to take it under consideration.
 - 3.3.2. Mr. Brown asked whether Audubon would simply discontinue the questionable practices to avoid any issues. Mr. Harper responded that they were considering how to change their practices.
 - 3.4. Ms. Calderon asked when the payroll internal controls report would be submitted. Mr. Larry Douglass reported that the report was approximately 90 days out, but that the internal controls audit is further back in the pipeline.
 - 3.5. Mr. Harper noted that the formatting and terminology used in the pipeline reports is somewhat confusing and that he would undertake to clarify the reports to make them more readable.
 - 3.6. Mr. Brown asked whether the OIG was involved in the cyberattack investigation. Mr. Harper responded that his office was considering whether any internal problems were a cause of the attack.
 - 3.6.1. Mr. Ricks noted that it is important for the OIG to have flexibility to respond to unexpected issues like the cyberattack and not be restricted by the ordinary risk assessment protocol. Mr. Rick’s suggested a “just do it” list.
 - 3.6.2. Mr. Harper agreed that his office must always be vigilant and responsive to unexpected issues.
 - 3.7. Mr. Harper noted that his office plans to add another investigator to do outreach and to prevent, fraud, waste, and abuse.
 - 3.8. Mr. Rodgers inquired as to whether the OIG was looking into the safety of Orleans Parish School Board busses.
 - 3.8.1. Mr. Harper responded that his office has not looked into it because of jurisdictional issues.

3.8.2. Mr. Harper did not receive information from the Sheriff's Office because of similar issues.

3.8.3. Mr. Harper promised to follow up on this for the board's January 2020 meeting.

4. *Discussion of Monthly Report of the Office of the Independent Police Monitor.*

4.1. Tanya McClary, Chief Monitor, appeared for the OIPM. (IPM Susan Hutson was out of town).

4.2. Ms. McClary discussed the monthly report of the OIPM (attached).

4.3. Ms. McClary noted that the number of complaints has risen in 2019.

4.3.1. Mr. Ricks asked why complaints are up? Ms. McClary noted that it may be attributable to greater visibility of the office in the community due to increased outreach efforts in 2019.

4.3.2. Mr. Ricks asked whether the office simply had greater visibility or whether citizens are more comfortable dealing with the OIPM. Ms. McClary responded that it was likely attributable to "both."

4.3.3. Mr. Rodgers noted that the convenient location of the OIPM on Canal Street may be part of the reason why citizens are more comfortable with the office.

4.4. Ms. McClary noted that the OIPM has reached out to NACOLE for recommendations as to independent evaluators. The list from NACOLE is expected next week.

4.5. The board congratulated Ms. McClary for her new position as police monitor for the City of Dallas and thanked her for her service to the citizens of New Orleans.

5. *Report of the Ethics Trainer.*

5.1. Ms. Hackett did not attend the board meeting.

5.2. Ms. Hackett did not submit a monthly report for January 2020.

6. *Report of the Executive Administrator and General Counsel.*

6.1. Mr. Ciolino reported that no new complaints were received.

6.2. Mr. Ciolino reported that Ms. Hackett was not interested in becoming an employee of the board but, rather, would prefer to remain as an independent contractor.

- 6.3. Ms. Calderon noted that before putting the next trainer contract out to bid, the Board needs a better understanding of the job description and responsibilities.
 - 6.4. Mr. Ciolino reported on the upcoming deadlines for the board's annual report.
 - 6.5. Mr. Ciolino and Ms. Calderon reported that a review of the rules of procedure is underway and that they will report more at the February board meeting..
7. *Overview of Role of ERB in City Government*
- 7.1. Mr. Ricks presented a PowerPoint on the role of the ERB in city government. He also presented it at the December 2019 Awards Luncheon.
 - 7.2. Ms. Calderon and other board members congratulated Mr. Ricks on the success of the awards luncheon.
8. *Adjournment.*
- 8.1. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded.
 - 8.2. The Board unanimously voted to adjourn.
 - 8.3. The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

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