

The Ethics Review Board
City of New Orleans

Tuesday, February 2, 2010
2:30 P.M.

Xavier University of Louisiana,
Room 205C Student Center

Present: Rev. Kevin Wildes, Chair; Rev. Cornelius Tilton, Vice Chair; Elizabeth Nalty, Secretary; Dr. Beverly Favre; Okyeame Haley; Professor Kathryn Lorio; and Dr. Beverly Wright

Staff Present: Steven Scheckman, General Counsel to ERB; Jill Poutré, Executive Director to ERB

Guests: Gail Howard, Executive Assistant to Rev. Kevin Wildes; David Marcello, Executive Director to Tulane Public Law Center; and Edouard Quatrevaux, IG

Rev. Kevin Wildes called the meeting to order at 2:39 P.M.

Rev. Cornelius Tilton moved to approve the minutes from the January 5, 2010, meeting. Elizabeth Nalty seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

Rev. Tilton welcomed the new Board members, Okyeame Haley and Dr. Beverly Wright, and thanked them for their willingness to serve. Okyeame Haley was nominated by Xavier University where he currently works as the Director of Planned Giving and as an adjunct professor. Mr. Haley also works at Haley and Mckee, L.L.C. as a tax attorney. Dr. Wright was nominated by Dillard University where she currently serves as the Director for the Deep South Environmental Justice. She is the recent recipient of the Heinz Award.

The Board thanked David Marcello and Gail Howard for their dedication and voluntary service to the Board. Rev. Wildes expressed the Board's gratitude to Mr. Marcello and said, "David Marcello devoted many hours lending his legal expertise to the Board. He assisted with legislation that provided permanent funding to both the ERB and OIG and counseled the Board on all legal issues." Then Rev. Wildes expressed the Board's appreciation to Gail Howard, his Executive Assistant, and stated that she "essentially took on a second job serving the Board without compensation. She kept the Board organized, arranged meetings and events, navigated City Hall's procedures and policies in order to assist the Board in becoming fully functional. Both Mr. Marcello and Ms. Howard were essential participants in setting up the Board since its inception. We are all thankful for their hard work and willingness to serve the City of New Orleans."

Inspector General Edouard Quatrevaux informed the Board that the New Orleans City Council unanimously accepted the Office of Inspector General policies and procedures as required by City Code on January 21, 2010. Quatrevaux presented the board with a

strategic plan for the OIG and stated that an updated version will be provided in September 2010 to fulfill the annual work plan requirement.

Jill Poutré provided an overview of the City of New Orleans leasing and contracting process. Rev. Cornelius Tilton, Rev. Kevin Wildes, and Dr. Beverly Wright volunteered to assist with expediting the lease process.

Steven Scheckman updated the Board on his en banc meeting with the Civil District Court judges to develop a short term solution to the subpoena authority problem. Steven Scheckman then discussed his recent memorandum concerning appeals from Ethics Review Board decisions and the need for the Board to consider adding the matter to the State statutory reform agenda. He requested the assistance from a few members of the Board in dealing with legislative issues and in meeting with legislators. Okyeame Haley, Rev. Cornelius Tilton, and Rev. Kevin Wildes volunteered to assist.

Jill Poutré presented a revision to the proposed 2010 budget originally presented at the November 2009 Board meeting. Rev. Cornelius Tilton moved to approve the budget, Dr. Beverly Favre seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

The Board agreed to continue meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 2:30 P.M.

A Quality Assurance Review Committee is required by ordinance to review the product of the Office of Inspector General. The Ethics Review Board appointed Rev. Cornelius Tilton to the committee in November, but the Committee has not met because many of the seats remain empty. Professor Kathryn Lorio moved to provide Rev. Cornelius Tilton with the authority to take the initiative in organizing the Quality Assurance Review Committee. Elizabeth Nalty seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

Elizabeth Nalty made a motion to enter into executive session, Dr. Beverly Favre seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

The Board entered into executive session at 3:34 P.M.

Rev. Cornelius Tilton made a motion to resume open session, Elizabeth Nalty seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

The Board resumed open session at 4:30 P.M.

There being no further business to discuss, Professor Kathryn Lorio moved to adjourn, Dr. Beverly Wright seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:34 P.M.