

The Ethics Review Board
City of New Orleans

Tuesday, May 18, 2010
2:30 p.m.

Southern University at New Orleans
6801 Press Drive, Bldg # 43
New Orleans, Louisiana 70126

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

Staff Present: Steven Scheckman, General Counsel to ERB

Guests: Edouard Quatrevaux, IG

Rev. Kevin Wildes called the meeting to order at 2:37 P.M.

Beverly Wright moved to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2010, meeting. Cornelius Tilton seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

Inspector General Edouard Quatrevaux advised the Board that the Inspector General's Community Forum, which was developed in order to reach out to the public, was held at the Xavier University Student Center, on May 11, 2010, and had a strong turn out and was a success. Inspector General Quatrevaux further advised the Board that on April 28, 2010 a letter was sent to the CAO of the City of New Orleans regarding the travel expense reimbursements of the former Sanitation Director, Veronica White. He further informed the Board that on May 3, 2010 a letter was sent to Mayor Landrieu outlining the problem regarding the production of documents by the New Orleans Police Department to the Independent Police Monitor. In response, on May 4, 2010, the Mayor directed the New Orleans Police Department to comply with the City ordinance relative to the production of records. Finally, Inspector General Quatrevaux advised the Board he received an invitation to submit suggested amendments to the OIG ordinance and he expects to submit several suggested amendments.

Steven Scheckman provided an update concerning the progress of securing a lease for the ERB Offices to be located in the Amoco Building. He advised that the status quo previously reported at the April 6, 2010 Board meeting continues and there has been no further developments regarding the proposed lease.

Steven Scheckman further reported that HB 791, regarding exceptions to the public records act, and HB 1113, regarding appeals from local ethics boards, has passed the House of Representatives and is awaiting further hearings before Senate Committees. He further reported that Representative Cedric Richmond continues to guide this legislation on behalf of the Board and remains in communication with him. He further directed the Board's attention to HB 670 (permits home rule charter parishes in excess of four

hundred thousand to establish local ethics entities) which has also passed the House of Representatives and is awaiting further action in the Senate.

The Board next engaged in a discussion concerning the future mission of the Ethics Review Board. In light of the Louisiana Board of Ethics' exclusive jurisdiction relative to the administration of the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics it was the general consensus of the Board the primary mission and focus of the Ethics Review Board should be in the area of ethics education and training. The Board further discussed whether it should continue to pursue the proposed lease at the Amoco Building, 1340 Poydras Street. Steven Scheckman, also raised the issue of whether, given the current and anticipated workload, whether his position should be converted to a part-time position. In that regard, Cornelius Tilton expressed his appreciation for the General Counsel's candor and honesty. The Board further discussed the role and duties of the next Board Executive Director whenever that individual is hired and the provision of ethics education. Following the discussion, Cornelius Tilton moved that: (1) the Board not go forward with the proposed lease at the Amoco Building, 1340 Poydras Street, and that both the City of New Orleans and Amoco Building management be notified accordingly; (2) the General Counsel should inquire and explore with the City how, and if, the General Counsel position can be converted to a part-time position and, if so, how the appropriate salary would be established; and, (3) the General Counsel should inquire and explore with the City how to amend the Executive Director's job description to include ethics education curriculum development and implementation, the teaching of governmental ethics, and coordinating the implementation of an ethics education program with the Louisiana Board of Ethics. Kathryn Lorio seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

Steven Scheckman advised that he and Okyeame Haley have met to study and propose revisions to the ERB Rules. They have produced an additional draft of proposed revisions which they continue to study. Okyeame Haley expressed his appreciation for the General Counsel inserting into the draft of the proposed rules language that clearly indicates that if the General Counsel appears as the trial attorney in an ethics case that is subject to charges that he will not be present during the Board's deliberations. A proposed draft of the revised rules will be submitted for the Board's further review and consideration at the August 2010 meeting.

The Board discussed the request for an Advisory Ethics Opinion from M. Harrison Boyd (No. 2010-ADV-0001) dated May 12, 2010. Cornelius Tilton moved that Mr. Boyd be directed to submit his request for an advisory ethics opinion to the Louisiana Board of Ethics since his request is governed by the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics, and specifically La. R.S. 42:1121. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Lorio and passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the upcoming meeting schedule for the remainder of 2010. Cornelius Tilton moved and Beverly Favre seconded that the next two meetings of the ERB shall be on August 17, 2010 and September 14, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

Cornelius Tilton made a motion to enter into executive session, Okyeame Haley seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

The Board entered into executive session at 3:39 P.M.

Kathryn Lorio made a motion to resume open session, Beverly Favre seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

The Board resumed open session at 4:10 P.M.

There being no further business to discuss, Rev. Cornelius Tilton moved to adjourn, Okyeame Haley seconded, all were in favor – motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 P.M.