

Ethics Review Board

City of New Orleans

January 13, 2015

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Algiers Regional Library | 3014 Holiday Drive | New Orleans, Louisiana 70131

Minutes

Present: Dr. Michael Cowan, Chair; Allen Miller, Vice Chair; James Brown; Howard Rodgers, III
Guests: Ed Quatrevaux, Inspector General
Susan Hutson, Independent Police Monitor

At 3:40 p.m., a quorum being present, the chair called the meeting to order. On a motion by Mr. Brown seconded by Mr. Rodgers, the board unanimously approved the minutes of December 18, 2014.

Inspector General Quatrevaux reviewed highlights of the 2014 OIG Annual Report and responded to questions from board members.

Independent Police Monitor Susan Hutson updated the board on complaints received, critical incidents responded to and recent training completed by staff members. She also mentioned a cooperative effort on policing between U.S. and Russian professionals in which her office will be involved.

Mr. Brown offered the following recommendations re. ERB staffing from himself and Dr. Ricks based on their conferring on the matter since the previous ERB meeting.

1. That the ERB hire an Executive Director with solely administrative responsibilities at an annual salary of \$45,000.
2. That the ERB execute a professional services contract with a consultant to design and deliver ethics training to elected and appointed officials, city workers, and members and staff of boards and commissions at a cost of \$40,000 annually.

Their rationale was that the skills sets of the two roles are quite different. After discussion, Mr. Brown moved acceptance of #1 above; the motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and passed unanimously. Mr. Brown then moved acceptance of #2 above; the motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and Mr. Rodgers and passed unanimously. RFPs for the two will be prepared and issued as soon as possible.

The board then revisited the question of ERB counsel and agreed that the action taken on the matter at the December 18, 2014 meeting should stand. So an RFP for a professional services

contract for general counsel to the Ethics Review Board at an annual flat fee retainer of \$40,000.00 for FY 2015 will be prepared and issued ASAP.

The board deliberated on the matter of an annual increase in compensation for the Inspector General. Mr. Brown commented on the high quality and powerful impact of work performed by the Office of Inspector General over the past year, noting particularly the dramatic effects of the office's report on NOPD handling of rape cases. After further discussion, Mr. Brown moved that the Inspector General be awarded a salary increase of 3.9% retroactive to his employment date. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and Mr. Rodgers, and passed unanimously.

At 4:50 p.m., Mr. Miller moved that the meeting adjourn; a second was offered by Mr. Rodgers. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Cowan, Ph.D.
Chair, Ethics Review Board
City of New Orleans