

Minutes of Jefferson Parish Ethics and Compliance Commission
Wednesday, January 15, 2025
Council Chambers
Joseph S. Yenni Building
1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard
Jefferson, LA 70123

Commission Members Present

Cherie Kay LaRocca
Chris Clement
Monica Pierre
Frank Young
Joel MacClellan

Commission Members Absent

None

Call Commission Meeting to order

Meeting called to order by Commissioner LaRocca at 5:01 P.M. Roll call. Quorum is constituted.

Review and Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Commissioner MacClellan to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2024 & December 17, 2024 meeting. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Clement. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** without opposition and abstention.

Public Hearing

None

Interviews of independent counsel to review Inspector General actions

Jerry Sullivan states one of the original three attorneys selected by the Ethics & Compliance Sub Committee has a conflict with his schedule and could not attend the interviews. The Commissioners decline to interview him at a later date. Mr. Sullivan states the scope of the engagement will be 1.) to perform a review of Public Letters 2024-01 & 2024-02 and render an opinion if such Public Letters were in accordance with Jefferson Parish ordinances and all applicable standards and procedures established by the Association of Inspectors General; and

2.) to determine whether the Inspector General has maintained the requisite level of independence in the performance of her duties in accordance with standards and procedures established by the Association of Inspectors General. He states it will be an entirely independent review and the findings will be reported to the Ethics & Compliance Commission. The Commissioners interview Billy Gibbens and Stephen Herman and select Steven Herman as the independent counsel to conduct the review of the work and independence of the Inspector General. Jerry Sullivan explains an engagement agreement and confidentiality agreement will be entered into with Mr. Herman.

Inspector General Report

Inspector General Kim Chatelain recognizes investigator Brian Smith with a certificate of appreciation for his many years of service with the JPOIG. She presents the Supra et Ultra award to auditor Greg Lampard for his outstanding service to the JPOIG. IG Chatelain reports the Office of Inspector General underwent Peer Review in September 2024. She states the JPOIG hosted the annual Association of Inspectors General conference in November 2024. IG Chatelain reports the first evaluation of the newly implemented JPOIG Evaluations department was issued in September 2024. She states an investigative report is out in draft and will go public before the March 2025 ECC meeting and the West Jefferson Hospital audit is underway.

Jerry Sullivan recognizes the efforts of Inspector General Kim Chatelain, Councilwoman Arita Bohannon and Councilman Hans Liljeberg to craft and clarify the various changes to the Jefferson Parish Ordinance impacting the Jefferson Parish Office of Inspector General passed on January 15, 2025.

MOTION by Commissioner Clement to enter into executive session for discussion of previous matters referred to the Inspector General. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Pierre. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** without opposition and abstention.

MOTION by Commissioner MacClellan to return to open meeting from executive session. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Clement. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** without opposition and abstention.

MOTION by Commissioner MacClellan to close both matters considered in executive session without action. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Clement. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** without opposition and abstention.

New Business

None

Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

Adjournment

MOTION by Commissioner Pierre to adjourn. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Clement. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** unanimously without opposition or abstention.

MEETING ADJOURNED
at 6:25pm