

The primary concern I wish to raise, however, is that comments made by certain council members at recent meetings would seem to implicate other members of the sitting council in PONO related issues, and the language of the resolution itself appears to include the council as a target of this investigation (i.e., the council is part of Parish Government, and each council member is a parish official). Thus, there would appear to be an inherent conflict (or at the very least an appearance of a conflict) in council members voting on an investigation which is aimed, at least in part, at the council itself (i.e., how does the council conduct an actual independent and objective investigation on itself).

As set forth above, in such a scenario our home rule charter contemplates the matter being referred to the parish ethics board.

Of course, the parish does not currently have a constituted ethics board; nor am I certain whether such a board as ever been constituted despite it being a permanent board designated in our home rule charter.

Section 8-04 of the Home Rule Charter provides that the ethics board is to be comprised of five (5) members which are to be selected from nominations submitted by the presidents/chancellors of: (1) University of New Orleans, (2) Loyola University, (3) Tulane University, (4) Xavier University and (5) Nunez Community College. Each member of the board is supposed to serve a four (4) year term.

Given all of the foregoing, if the council wishes the investigation to proceed it may be more appropriate for us to contact the above entities for nominations so that we may seat an Ethics Board to conduct the investigation.

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