

Dear Citizens of New Orleans,

2008 was another remarkable year for the Ethics Review Board and the Office of Inspector General in the City of New Orleans.

Both the ERB and OIG were able to accomplish important steps in establishing the normal operations of the offices. The ERB completed its Rules and they were promulgated. Both the ERB and OIG worked together on important legislation to ensure the independence of the operations. With the leadership of City Council and many citizens groups the City Charter was amended to ensure dedicated funding for both offices. The ERB also hired two staff members to assist us, and the OIG, in legal and administrative matters.

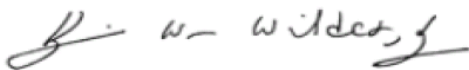
We are deeply indebted to Robert Cerasoli who served as the City's first Inspector General. Bob's experience, energy, and commitment were crucial for the establishment of the ERB and the OIG. His resignation, for personal reasons of health, was a loss for the City. However, the hard works that Bob did, in helping to organize these offices, develop needed legislation, and educate the public were crucial to the long term success of these offices. The City will forever be indebted to Bob for his work here.

We have important work ahead of us in 2009. We have already embarked on a national search for a new Inspector General. We are confident that this search will be accomplished in the first half of this year. In the meantime the OIG continues its operations under the able leadership of Mr. Len Odom the Interim Inspector General. Also, we are working in 2009 to develop an ethics education program for city employees. We will also establish, within the OIG, the Police Monitor function.

I know for me, and for all the members of the Ethics Review Board, it has been an honor to serve the City on this Board. We believe that our work, and the work of the OIG, plays a meaningful role in fostering a positive ethical climate in the City. Such a climate will better serve all citizens in the transparent, efficient delivery of city services.

We have done much but there is still much to do to create a city where transparency, honesty, and the efficient delivery of City services are the expected norms. We are committed to continue this work and we will.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kevin W. Wildes".

Kevin Wm. Wildes, S.J., Ph.D.  
Chair