



Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS

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February 8, 2022

The Audit Committee meeting met on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:32 A.M.

PRESENT:

Dr. Tamika Duplessis, Chair
Director Robin Barnes
Director Maurice Sholas
Director Joseph Peychaud

ABSENT:

Director Alejandra Guzman

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE:

Ghassan Korban, Executive Director, SWBNO; Yolanda Y. Grinstead, Special Counsel, SWBNO; E. Grey Lewis, Chief Financial Officer, SWBNO; Christy Harowski, Chief of Staff, SWBNO; Admiral David Callahan, Chief of Administration; Dave Cappel, Interim Director of Support Services; Ron Spooner, Interim General Superintendent.

MEETING NOTES

Director Duplessis gave an opening statement bringing the committee up to speed on the employment challenges of the Internal Audit department. Director Duplessis stated that Mr. Cardell Silas had tendered his resignation and the department is now in a staffing crisis. Director Duplessis continued by mentioning the Chief Auditor position is vacant and currently being advertised. Director Sholas asked to discuss the staffing issue later in the meeting per Special Counsel Grinstead's recommendation.

PRESENTATION ITEMS

Mr. Cardell Silas gave a presentation on the updated Take Home Vehicle report. Mr. Dave Cappel and GSO Ron Spooner gave an overview of what is to come in the Support Services department, as it relates to the Take Home Vehicle report.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Mr. Silas gave an introduction of the 2022 Internal Audit Plan. Director Duplessis added that the 2022 Internal Audit plan is to ensure that the needs of the Audit Committee are being met and to give an opportunity for committee input. Committee members expressed concerns about staffing, safety, risk management and a dynamic process within the audit plan. Leadership gave insight on the staffing process and what has been done to address the staffing needs. Committee members gave recommendations on how to address the staffing issues considering mandates.

INFORMATION ITEM:

The information items were received.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:35 A.M. with a motion by Director Sholas; seconded by Director Barnes.