

Board of Ethics

Open Session Minutes

June 15, 2011 - 3:04 p.m.
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

Miguel A. Ruiz, Chair
Tiffany Chappell Ingram
Eileen Libby
Thomas McCarthy
John L. Wilhelm, M.D.

Lisa M. Taylor (Absent)

Staff Present

Steven I. Berlin, Executive Director
Richard J. Superfine, Legal Counsel
Courtney L.D. Kimble, Attorney/Investigator
Edward Primer, Program Director
Pally Casillas, Staff Assistant

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 5-0 (Lisa M. Taylor, absent) to approve the Open Session Minutes of the May 18, 2011 meeting, as amended.

II. Chair's Report

III. Executive Director's Report

A. Education—Classes

Since the last meeting, staff has conducted 2 classes for those required to attend. On May 19, 19 attended, and on June 9, 19 attended.

At the request of the new aldermen of the 47th, 48th and 50th Wards, staff conducted 3 classes for these new aldermen and their staff members required to attend, on May 23, 25 and 27. A total of 23 persons attended.

At the request of the Mayor's Office, on June 24, staff will make a 60 minute presentation to a delegation of visiting officials from the Island of Sulawesi in Indonesia.

On June 20 and 23, staff will conduct 2 classes for attorneys in the Law Department, at the request of the Corporation Counsel. We expect about 100 attorneys to attend, and have been authorized to offer 1.5 hours of ethics CLE credit by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Staff is in the process of scheduling classes for the remaining incoming aldermen, as well as new staff in the Mayor's Office.

B. Education–Mandatory Annual Ethics Education

Since the on-line training went live on April 8, approximately 4,125 employees had completed the program. However, given the Mayor’s new Executive Orders, issued May 16, the program was taken down so that it can be revised to reflect new rules on intra-City gifts, lobbying, and post-employment restrictions. All persons who had completed the training will be informed that they can re log-in and view the revisions, though that will not be required. It is anticipated that the new training will be ready and re-posted by week’s end.

To date, 255 lobbyists have completed their program. Staff will begin a “blitz” tomorrow to drive toward 100% compliance by July 1, including written notice.

C. Statements of Financial Interests

To date, 12,968 employees and officials have filed their 2011 Statements of Financial Interests. We are at 89% compliance. Two-thirds of filers have filed electronically; the rest have filed in paper. Staff has been busily scanning the paper forms into the City’s new EFIS system, where they are available for public inspection (forms filed through EFIS are automatically available once complete). Staff will begin its “blitz” to ensure that as many filers as possible file prior to the Board’s July meeting, and will send out notices that names will be submitted to the Board for a determination of a violation at that time.

D. Lobbyist Registration

There are currently **530** lobbyists registered with the City. To date, \$255,225.00 in lobbyist registration fees have been deposited with the Department of Revenue.

E. Ethics Pledges

The Mayor has given the Board the responsibility to distribute and maintain Ethics Pledges required of all Shakman-exempt employees and Mayoral appointees under Executive Order 2011-1. With the assistance of the Commissioner of Human Resources, we sent notice of the requirement to file the Pledge and the form itself to 579 employees (not including the Mayor’s Office, which is handling the distribution of its own, and appointed officials, distribution to whom is being handled by LCGA). To date, we have received 270 of these, a compliance rate of 50%.

F. New Publications

The Board is currently preparing four “Plain English” guides: one for lobbying and interacting with lobbyists; one for gifts; one for campaign financing and political activity; one for post-employment.

G. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

Since the last regularly scheduled Board meeting, the office has received 5 new requests under the Freedom of Information Act. Each was a request for lobbying records for years 2008-2011. These requests resulted in the production and copying of 107 records.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

The Board VOTED 5-0 (Lisa M. Taylor, absent) to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:39 p.m. to review matters concerning the conduct of employees and officials of the City that could result in their discipline or dismissal, to review questions concerning matters of professional ethics and performance, to review matters in which litigation is ongoing, and/or to review matters in which the Board finds that litigation against or affecting the Board is probable or imminent.