

Board of Ethics

Open Session Minutes

February 15, 2012 - 3:07 p.m.

740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

Miguel A. Ruiz, Chair
Eileen Libby
Thomas Mc Carthy
John L. Wilhelm, M.D.

Tiffany Chappell Ingram (Absent)
Lisa M. Taylor (Absent)

Staff Present

Steven I. Berlin, Executive Director
Richard J. Superfine, Legal Counsel
Edward Primer, Program Director
Pauilly Casillas, Staff Assistant

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Tiffany Chappell Ingram and Lisa M. Taylor, absent) to approve the Open Session Minutes of the January 18, 2012 Board meeting, as amended.

II. Chair's Report

III. Executive Director's Report

A. Staff Hiring

Our Deputy Director, Lisa Eilers, will be joining us tomorrow, February 16. We have completed the interviewing process for the Investigator/Attorney position, and, due to the rules governing the hiring process, were unable to extend a conditional offer to anyone until this week. We are now deciding the candidate to whom we will extend a conditional offer the condition being passing a background check.

B. Education—Classes

Class on January 31 was cancelled. On February 1, at the request of the Commissioner of Housing and Economic Development, we conducted an ethics training session for 25 commissioners and service providers of 3 SSA's (Special Service Areas) in Rogers Park.

C. Education—Mandatory Annual Ethics Education

I'm pleased to report that during the week of January 30, we confirmed that the City reached 100% compliance for 2011 mandatory ethics training. The grand total of employees (and 50

aldermen) who completed the 2011 program was 31,130. The number of employees who completed the training in previous years was: 37,643 in 2006; 36,598 in 2007; 35,776 in 2008; 34,138 in 2009; and 32,832 in 2010.

99 registered lobbyists have completed the 2011-2012 program. All need to complete it by June 30, 2012.

D. Lobbyist Registration

To date, we have received 618 registrations from lobbyists, and are processing them constantly—we are up to about 500. We have collected more than \$200,000 in registration fees.

E. E-Lobbying RFP

We have met with our development team at Crowe Horwath several times, and have scheduled 10 meetings with them over the next month to create and implement the e-lobbying system. It will be called “ELF,” since every big IT project needs a silly but easily remembered acronym.

F. Sister Agency Ethics Officers’ Consortium Working Group

On February 7, I met with Ethics Officers from the CPS, CTA, CHA and City Colleges regarding issues of common concern.

G. Ethics Ordinance/EDS Amendments.

I met twice with the Mayor's Ethics Task Force, on Monday, January 23, and Wednesday, February 1. These meetings were tremendously productive. I will attend the public meeting tonight at Olive-Harvey College, and one or more of us will attend the next public meeting, on March 12 at Truman College.

H. Possible amendments to the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act

The committee convened by Lt. Gov. Simon to propose revisions to the state ethics form, the "Statement of Economic Interests" (which 3,000 City personnel file every year) met again January 13. The committee has completed its work, and the drafters presented their version last week and await comments from various elected officials.

I. Greater Transparency

Employees and officials must disclose honoraria, gifts accepted on the City's behalf, and other matters. We receive about 200 disclosures each year, some of which are required by law and others that are filed voluntarily. We keep these in paper form (aldermanic recusal notices are posted on the web). We now also post all of them on our website—there are more than 30 posted.

J. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

Since the last regularly scheduled Board meeting, the office has received 7 new requests under the Freedom of Information Act, comprising all lobbying records for five lobbyists for the years 2011-12; building records regarding a building with a Chicago address; and statements of financial interests for one employee from 2004-2011.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Tiffany Chappell Ingram and Lisa M. Taylor, absent) to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:19 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.