

BOARD OF ETHICS
Open Session Minutes
December 12, 2007- 3:07 p.m.
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

Miguel A. Ruiz, Chair
Michael F. Quirk
Thomas McCarthy
John L. Wilhelm, M.D.

Alison C. Chisolm, Joined meeting for Executive Session
Mary Beth S. Robinson, Absent

Staff Present

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

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Alison C. Chisolm and Mary Beth S. Robinson absent) to approve the Open Session minutes of the November 14, 2007 meeting, as amended.

II. Chair's Report

None.

III. Acting Executive Director's Report

A. Staff Vacancy

The position (for Attorney-Investigator) left vacant upon the departure of Briana Billingslea on November 15 was posted on the City's Department of Human Resources' website on December 3, and was sent to the 6 local law schools, and to 12 local bar associations. Interested persons have until December 26 to complete on-line applications.

B. Education-Classes

Since the last Board meeting, staff has conducted 2 regularly scheduled classes for persons required to attend ethics training. On November 21, 15 persons attended, and on December 5, 16 persons attended.

At the request of the Mayor's Office of Protocol, staff made a 45 minute presentation on November 16 to a visiting delegation of human resources officials from Shanghai, PRC.

At the request of the Mayor's Office of Protocol and U.S. Department of State, on November 27, staff made a 45 minute presentation to a journalist from the Thailand Star Today newspaper.

C. Mandatory Annual Ethics Education

As of today at 12 p.m., approximately 36,550 employees and 40 aldermen-together approximately 98% of the City's workforce--have completed the 2007 on-line ethics training program. Staff is working daily with liaisons from those 5 departments that have employees remaining. There are approximately 500 employees still required to complete the training.

D. Statements of Financial Interests

Currently there remain 3 employees and 1 appointed official who, despite having been found in violation of the Ordinance by the Board, have failed to file their 2006 Statements of Financial Interests as required by law. In closed session, staff will recommend that 2 such cases be closed.

Of the employees found in violation of the Ordinance by the Board for failure to file their 2007 Statements of Financial Interests, all but 12 have filed. In closed session, staff will recommend that 1 such case be closed.

Of the 11 Appointed Officials determined to have violated the Ordinance at the last meeting for failure to file their 2007 Statements of Financial Interests, all but 1 have now filed. In closed session, staff will recommend that one of these cases be closed.

To date, staff has collected \$17,120 in late filing fees in 2007.

Staff continues to work closely with each department's ethics liaison or a senior manager to achieve 100% compliance with this requirement, and this past month has seen noted success.

E. Lobbyist Registration

There are currently **574** lobbyists that have registered with the City for this year. Since the last meeting **1** lobbyist terminated its registration. To date, the office has deposited \$ **127,600.00** in lobbyist registration fees with the Department of Revenue.

As the new lobbying year and registration cycle begins on January 20, staff will, on or about December 20, contact all currently registered lobbyists by email (or where necessary, by first class mail) reminding them of the January 20 deadlines. Earlier today, staff posted the 2008 forms on its website.

F. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

Since the last Board meeting, the office has received 1 request under the Freedom of Information Act, for 48 records. It was a request for two appointed officials' Statements of Financial Interests from 2000-2007 and for four employees' Statements of Financial Interests from 2000-2007. Board staff is currently researching Board records in order to respond to the request.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Alison C. Chisolm and Mary Beth Robinson, absent) to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:20 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.