BOARD OF ETHICS

Open Session Minutes
August 24, 2009 - 3:04 p.m.
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

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

Staff Present

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

I.   Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 4-0 to approve the Open Session Minutes of the July 15, 2009 meeting.

II.   Chair's Report

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

A.   Education-Classes

Since the last Board meeting, staff has conducted 3 regularly scheduled classes for persons required to attend ethics training. On July 16, 22 attended; on August 6, 24 attended, and on August 20, 15 attended. There are currently 25 scheduled for September 3, and 12 for September 17.

On July 17, at the request of the Mayor's Office and the Department of State, staff made a 60 minute presentation to five government officials from the Republic of Indonesia.

On August 6, at the request of the Mayor's Office and Department of State, staff made a 60 minute presentation to 22 visiting government and judicial officials from Algeria, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Ghana, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Liberia, Malawi and Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Portugal, Rwanda, Sudan Tanzania, Thailand, Pakistan, the U.N., Uganda and Zimbabwe.

On September 11, staff will present the third of four classes to contractors and employees from the Department of Aviation and O'Hare Management Project.

B.   **Mandatory Annual Ethics Education**

To date, 24,880 employees and 5 aldermen have completed the 2009 annual mandatory ethics training program. This is approximately 73% of the total expected number for the year.

A new educational video will be shown in classes beginning in mid-September, and additional classes will be held to accommodate those City employees and officials who have their 4-year cycle about to renew.

C.   **2010 Budget**

On August 7, staff submitted the agency's 2010 budget appropriation request. It is again an austerity request, reflecting a 2.46% decrease from our 2009 appropriation in personnel accounts, a 6% decrease in non-personnel accounts (every single non-personnel account was either cut or remains the same as last year) and an overall 1.38% reduction, to $597,586. The Board of Ethics has not been at this funding or staffing level since 1996. The submission is available for your review.

D.   **Statements of Financial Interests**

As of this afternoon, there remain 12 employees and 3 appointed officials who have still not filed their forms by May 31, as required by law. There will be more on these individuals in closed session.

To date in 2009, the office has collected $7,600 in late filing fees.

E.   **Lobbyist Registration**

There are currently **608** lobbyists that have registered with the City for this year. To date, approximately $**130,200.00** in lobbyist registration fees have been deposited with the Department of Revenue.

To date, all but 7 lobbyists have filed their semi-annual activity reports.

F.   **Illinois Freedom of Information Act**

Since the last Board meeting, the office has received 2 requests under the Freedom of Information Act. One was for about 200 aldermanic disclosures; the other was for 3 lobbyists' filings, resulting in production of approximately 203 forms and records, and the copying of 9 records.

IV. **Old Business**

None.

V. **New Business**

None.

The Board VOTED 4-0 to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:10 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.

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