

BOARD OF ETHICS

Open Session Minutes

January 29, 2010 - 11:06 a.m.
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

Miguel A. Ruiz, Chair
Thomas McCarthy
Lisa M. Taylor
John L. Wilhelm, M.D.

Michael F. Quirk (Absent)

Staff Present

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

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Michael F. Quirk, absent) to approve the Open Session Minutes of the December 16, 2009 meeting.

II. Chair's Report

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

A. Education-Classes

Since the last Board meeting, staff has conducted 7 regularly and 2 specially scheduled classes for persons required to attend ethics training, on December 17, January 7, 12, 14, 21, 25, 26 and 28. A total of 78 persons attended. There are currently a total of 160 people scheduled for upcoming classes (this includes 4 classes for City Council members and staff, on February 11, 16 and 18.) CLE has been approved for the January 25 class, and applied for for the February 16 class.

On December 18, staff presented the last of four classes to about 250 contractors and employees from the combined Department of Aviation and O'Hare Management Project. It will present 5 more seminars over the course of 2010, 4 at O'Hare and 1 at Midway. These will occur on April 20 (Midway) and March 26, June 25, September 24, and December 10.

B. Mandatory Annual Ethics Education

To date, our records show that 34,088 employees and all 50 aldermen have completed their 2009 mandatory on-line ethics training. There remain only six employees, who, our records show, have not completed their training, and have not yet been accounted for as ineligible.

C. Statements of Financial Interests

Arrangements are being made to print the expected 11,500 2010 Statements of Financial Interests and accompanying instructions, as well as notices to all filers that their 2009 and 2010 forms will be available through the City's website, and that they will no longer receive notice of FAIA inspections. With the extraordinary efforts of our staff and the staff of DOIT, and our vendor, E.I., the website that posts all filed 2009 Statements in scanned form was ready on December 31, and FAIA components were ready as of January 15. The launch of the website will be coordinated with a larger transparency website Citywide, and is expected in February. Staff and DOIT have also selected Crowe Horwath as the vendor to create the system that will enable on-line filing of Statements, on-line payment of any late fees, and on-line retrieval. We expect that project to be completed in November 2010.

D. Annual Report

I am pleased to report that the Annual Report was distributed during the week of December 21.

E. Lobbyist Registration

As of this afternoon, approximately 410 lobbyists have registered for 2010, and 102 have filed notices of termination. The forms are coming in as we speak. The Board has, so far, collected \$163,900 in registration fees.

F. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

Since the last regularly scheduled Board meeting, the office has received 2 new requests under the Freedom of Information Act, comprising 1 request for documents not kept by this agency, and 1 request for 1 employee's statements of financial interests for 7 years, resulting in production of 5 filed documents.

Staff has also been in communication with the Secretary of State's office about a possible amendment it wishes to make to the Board's document retention schedule with regard to the retention period for Statements of Financial Interests.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Michael F. Quirk, absent) to adjourn into Executive Session at 11:16 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.