

BOARD OF ETHICS

Open Session Minutes

May 18, 2011 - 3:05 p.m.
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

Miguel A. Ruiz, Chair
Tiffany Chappell Ingram
Eileen Libby
Thomas McCarthy
Michael F. Quirk
Lisa M. Taylor
John L. Wilhelm, M.D.

Staff Present

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

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 7-0 to approve the Open Session Minutes of the April 13, 2011 meeting.

II. Chair's Report

It is with regret that I report that Michael F. Quick has submitted his resignation to the Mayor as a member of the Board of Ethics. He has been an outstanding member of our Board for 15 years. His invaluable and dedicated service is greatly appreciated and will be missed. On behalf of our Board members and staff, we wish him well in all future endeavors.

III. Executive Director's Report

Departing Board Member

On behalf of all current and former Board staff who have had the honor of working with him, I want to thank Brother Michael Quirk, who is resigning from the Board effective June 1, 2011, for his 15 years of outstanding and dedicated volunteer service to the Board and to the citizens of the City of Chicago. We will miss him, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

A. Education–Classes

Since the last meeting, staff has conducted 2 classes for those required to attend. On April 21, 22 attended, and on May 5, 19 attended. There are currently 24 scheduled for May 19, and 27 scheduled for June 9.

At the request of the Mayor's Office, on April 25, staff made a 60 minute presentation to 4 visiting ethics officials from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Nepal, and on May 6 made a 60 minute presentation to 13 visiting ethics officials from Pakistan.

Staff is in the process of scheduling classes for the incoming aldermen, as well as for the 7 aldermen who will have their second 4-year training deadline upon them in September. They will likely be conducted in dedicated sessions, and with aldermanic staff, and in contact with

the Mayor's Office to schedule training for all employees of the Mayor's Office, who are required to attend by law.

Staff has already scheduled classes for two new aldermen and their staff members next week, on May 23 and 25.

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, I have directed that the training be 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. I anticipate that the new training will be ready by mid-June.

To date, 190 lobbyists have completed the program—about two thirds of the expected total.

C. Statements of Financial Interests

To date, 12,475 employees and officials have filed their 2011 Statements of Financial Interests. We are thus at 85% compliance. Two-thirds of the filers have filed electronically; the rest have filed in paper. Staff has been busily scanning the paper forms onto the City's new EFIS system, where they are available for public inspection (forms filed through EFIS are automatically available once complete). On April 15, as required by law, staff sent out notices reminding filers of the May 1 deadline to avoid a late filing fee, and again on May 15 sent out 2372 notices reminding non-filers of the May 31 deadline before being subject to a determination of having violated the law for failure to file.

D. Lobbyist Registration

There are currently **520** lobbyists that have registered with the City. To date, **\$252,050.00** in lobbyist registration fees have been deposited with the Department of Revenue.

I have also spoken with the Mayor's Office regarding a new electronic system for lobbyist registration and disclosure, and his office has indicated that this is of great interest to the Mayor.

E. 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. Three of these were requests for statements of financial interests for 8 employees and board members between the years 2002-2011, and 2 were for lobbying records of two lobbyists for the years 2009-2011. These requests resulted in production and copying of 57 records.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

F. Semi-Annual Review of the Confidentiality of Executive Session Minutes Under the Illinois Open Meetings Act

It was announced that, during the executive session, Board members would conduct the semi-annual review of Board executive session minutes as required by the Illinois Open Meetings Act, and would reconvene in open session to confirm the Board's determination in executive session.

The Board VOTED 7-0 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.

VI. New Business (Reconvened)

G. Semi-annual Review of the Confidentiality of Executive Session Minutes under the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

At 4:52 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session to confirm its poll in Executive Session on the confidentiality of the Executive Session Minutes. The Board VOTED 7-0 to confirm that the Executive Session Minutes of the Board from August 1987 to May 2011 remain confidential, on the ground that the need for confidentiality still exists as to those minutes, with the exception of those that have already been made publicly available by vote of the Board.

The Board VOTED 7-0 to adjourn.