

BOARD OF ETHICS

Open Session Minutes

February 16, 2011 - 3:09 p.m.
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

Tiffany Chappell Ingram
Eileen Libby
Thomas McCarthy
John L. Wilhelm, M.D.

Miguel A. Ruiz, Chair (Absent)
Lisa M. Taylor (Absent)
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
Pauly Casillas, Staff Assistant

After a quorum of Board members (Miguel A. Ruiz, Lisa M. Taylor and, Michael F. Quirk absent) assembled, the members present elected Thomas McCarthy to act as Chair *Pro Tem* for the February meeting of the Board of Ethics.

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Miguel A. Ruiz, Lisa M. Taylor and, Michael F. Quirk absent) to approve the Open Session Minutes of the January 20, 2011 meeting.

II. Chair's Report

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

A. Education—Classes

Since the last meeting, staff has conducted 1 class for those required to attend, on January 27, and 28 attended. There are currently 33 scheduled for February 25, 21 for March 3, and 11 for March 17.

On February 28, at the request of the Mayor's Office, staff will make a 60 minute presentation to 5 visiting officials from Albania, as part of the Albanian government's Accountability in Government Project

B. Education—Mandatory Annual Ethics Education

I'm pleased to announce that, the City once again achieved 100% compliance with the requirement that all full-time employees and aldermen complete the 2010 on-line training.

A total of 32,834 employees and aldermen completed theirs. Staff is working on the 2011 program—completely revised from the 2010 program, and intends to have it posted by the end of March.

To date, 129 Lobbyists have completed this training program—about 21% of the expected total.

C. Statements of Financial Interests

To date, there remain 3 employees and 7 appointed officials who have yet to file their 2010 forms as required by law.

The EFIS system is nearly ready to make its debut. Staff has been trained on the operation of the on-line filing, retrieval, and data processing system for Statements of Financial Interests. Emails and notifications will be sent in the next 10 days to all City employees and officials required to file regarding the new system, and log-in information will be sent around March 1.

D. Lobbyist Registration

There are currently **460** lobbyists that have registered with the City for 2011. To date, \$81,000 in lobbyist registration fees have been received.

As required by law, on February 10, staff sent certified mailings to 65 lobbyists who had not re-registered, or filed activity reports, or filed terminations. 10 responded with registrations or terminations. Were all remaining 55 lobbyists to re-register, we would have a total of 523 lobbyists. This is down 11% from last year, we believe due to the slowdown in the commercial real estate market.

Staff sent 140 deficiency notices to those who registered, terminated or sent in activity reports. 73 of those have cured their deficiencies.

Thanks to the herculean efforts of Jef Johnson, Rich Superfine and Doretha Jackson, the list of currently registered lobbyists was posted on our website yesterday, as required by Ordinance.

E. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

Since the last regularly scheduled Board meeting, the office has received 11 new requests under the Freedom of Information Act. These were 2 requests for candidate's or elected officials' statements of financial interests, 1 request for records on City street lights, 2 requests for diverse City records about an Aldermanic staffer, 1 request for certain years of the Board's open session agendas and minutes, and 5 requests for 811 lobbyists' filings for years varying from 2003-2011, resulting in production of 576 filed records and copying of 1,389 records or pages therefrom.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Miguel A. Ruiz, Lisa M. Taylor and, Michael F. Quirk 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.