

BOARD OF ETHICS

Open Session Minutes

March 16, 2011 - 3:03 p.m.
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

Miguel A. Ruiz, Chair
Eileen Libby
Thomas McCarthy
John L. Wilhelm, M.D.

Tiffany Chappell Ingram (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
Pully Casillas, Staff Assistant

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Tiffany Chappell Ingram, Lisa M. Taylor and, Michael F. Quirk absent) to approve the Open Session Minutes of the February 16, 2011 meeting.

II. Chair's Report

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

A. Education–Classes

Since the last meeting, staff has conducted 2 classes for employees and officials required by law to attend classes. On February 25, 38 attended, and on March 3, 3 attended. There are currently 32 scheduled for March 17, and 37 scheduled for April 7.

On February 28, at the request of the Mayor's Office, staff made a 60 minute presentation to 4 visiting officials from Albania, as part of the Albanian government's Accountability in Government Project.

B. Education–Mandatory Annual Ethics Education

Staff is finalizing the 2011 mandatory on-line ethics education program for aldermen and all full-time employees—completely revised from the 2010 program—and intends to have it posted by the end of March. The 2011 program will cover gifts (as it does every year),

lobbyist regulation, post-employment or “revolving door” restrictions, and the use of City-owned computers and associated technologies.

To date, 159 lobbyists have completed the program—about one third of the expected total.

C. Statements of Financial Interests

To date, there remain 2 employees and 7 appointed officials who have yet to file their 2010 forms as required by law.

The electronic financial interests system, or “EFIS,” made its debut on March 1, 2011, thus making the City of Chicago the first jurisdiction with on-line filing of ethics forms and immediate on-line availability of filed forms. On March 1, as required by law, a total of 14,592 employees and officials were notified of the 2011 filing requirement: 9,820 were sent the system email with log-in instructions, and 4,372 were sent letters to their home addresses informing them of the requirement and how to file on paper or electronically. To date, approximately 2,200 have filed electronically, and another 750 by paper. This means that we are at about 20% compliance at this time.

D. Lobbyist Registration

There are currently **490** lobbyists that have registered with the City for this year. To date, **\$198,650.00** in lobbyist registration fees have been deposited with the Department of Revenue. Of 140 deficiency notices sent in February to those who had registered, terminated or sent in activity reports, there remain just 23 deficiencies, which staff is endeavoring to cure daily.

E. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

Since the last regularly scheduled Board meeting, the office has received 4 new requests under the Freedom of Information Act. These included 1 general request for records “related to the Board” (staff responded by asking the requestor to narrow his request), and 3 requests for a total 63 lobbyists’ filings for years 2004-2011. This resulted in production of 42 filed records.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Tiffany Chappell Ingram, Lisa M. Taylor and, Michael F. Quirk absent) to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:11 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.