



BOARD OF ETHICS
CITY OF CHICAGO

NEWS RELEASE
December 18, 2014

Pursuant to §2-156-380(n-1) of the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance, effective September 10, 2014, the Board of Ethics today filed signed and sworn complaints with the Offices of the Inspector General and Legislative Inspector General regarding *possible* violations of the Ordinance's campaign contribution limitations by political contributors and political committees of elected City officials that reported having accepted contributions from them in 2013.

City law limits *only* certain persons — City and sister agency contractors, persons seeking to do business with the City, and registered lobbyists — to \$1,500 in political contributions per elected official or per candidate (or his or her authorized political committees) per calendar year. Thus, for a violation to exist, a person must have both make a contribution that exceeds the \$1500 limit AND, at the time of the contribution, have been either a lobbyist, a City or sister agency contractor for the four years preceding the contribution, or a person seeking to do business with the City.

On September 10, 2014, the City Council granted the Board of Ethics the power and duty to review publicly available campaign finance filings (made pursuant to State law with the Illinois State Board of Elections) for compliance with these limitations, and then refer *possible* violations to the appropriate inspector general for investigation.

Accordingly, the Board has exercised its duty and reviewed the public reports of campaign contributions made and accepted in 2013 to and by all City elected officials and candidates for elected City office. The Board has compiled a list consisting of all persons whose contribution exceeded \$1,500 in that time period. It is this list of names that forms the basis of the signed and sworn complaints referred to above. The Board has made NO investigation of whether any of the persons named were lobbyists, City contractors or persons seeking to do business when they made their contributions. Accordingly, the Board has no basis to assert that any of these persons are in violation of the Ordinance.

Only through investigations could actual violations be identified and resolved. The Board of Ethics does not have the authority to conduct these investigations. These investigations can be conducted only by either the City Inspector General or the Legislative Inspector General, if they choose to do so.

Today, the Board is referring these complaints to the Inspector General and the Legislative Inspector General. The law requires that the complaints remain confidential at this time.

The Board is making these referrals for the 2013 calendar year. At the appropriate time in early 2015, the Board will determine whether it will make any referrals for the 2014 calendar year.

For more information, please see our website:

http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/ethics/supp_info/ao-campaignfin.html