

BOARD OF ETHICS
Open Session Minutes
February 15, 2006 - 3:22 p.m.
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

Darryl L. DePriest, Chair
Robert S. Grodnicki
Michael F. Quirk
Miguel A. Ruiz

Mary Beth S. Robinson (absent)

Staff Present

Dorothy J. Eng, Executive Director
Steven I. Berlin, Deputy Director
Michael Haggerty, Deputy Director
Richard J. Superfine, Legal Counsel
Briana Milton, Attorney-Investigator
Pully Casillas, Staff Assistant
Jef Johnson, Coordinator of Special Projects

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Mary Beth S. Robinson absent) to approve the Open Session minutes of the January 11, 2006 meeting, as amended.

II. Chair's Report

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

A. Education

Since the last Board meeting the Executive Director has participated in 6 Integrity and Accountability Forums conducted for City employees. This initiative is sponsored by the Mayor's Office. Speakers at these forums included the appropriate Department Commissioner, the Chief of Staff, Corporation Counsel, the Inspector General and the Executive Director of the Board of Ethics. The six forums held were: (a) 2 for Department of Streets and Sanitation, 400 employees attended on January 12 and 13; (b)1 for the Department of Transportation, 100 Supervisors/Managers attended on January 18; (c) Department of Buildings, 320 employees attended on January 25; (d) Department of Aviation, 120 Supervisors/Managers attended on February 9; and (e) Department of General Services, 250 employees attended on February 16, (this morning).

Since the last Board meeting, staff has conducted 6 regularly scheduled classes and 8 specially scheduled classes for persons who by law are required to attend ethics training. A total of 260 elected officials and employees attended these sessions.

Of the specially scheduled classes for aldermen, 10 attended the morning of January 24; 8 on the afternoon of January 24, and 11 the morning of January 25.

Of the specially scheduled classes for department heads, 8 attended on the morning of January 26, 8 on the afternoon of January 26

13 employees of the Mayor's Office attended the specially scheduled session of February 2.

21 employees of the City Council attended the specially scheduled session on January 19, and 2 aldermen and 23 employees attended the specially scheduled session on February 9.

Additional classes are scheduled for February 17, 21, 22 and 23, and 24. A total of 60 elected officials and employees are scheduled to attend.

At the request of the Inspector General's Office, staff will make an ethics presentation to approximately 20 investigators on March 7. At the request of the Corporation Counsel, staff will make the last of 6 presentations to attorneys from the Law Department on March 9.

The on-line training program written by Board staff to be used for the annual training of all City employees that is required, effective February 10, 2006, has yet to be completed by "Risetime" the vendor chosen and overseen by representatives of the Mayor's Office. This agency has been advised that the new production deadline is sometime in early March. Some aldermen have requested they be allowed to view program before it is utilized for training employees.

B. Statements of Financial Interests

Arrangements to distribute the 2006 Statements of Financial Interests forms, which must be mailed on or before March 1, as required by Ordinance have been completed. There are 12,618 employees and 392 appointed officials to whom forms and notices of the requirement to file by May 1st will be sent. This figures represents a 38% increase over the number of persons required to file in 2005.

The form and accompanying instructions will be posted to the Board's website on February 28.

C. Lobbyist Registration

Since the last meeting 94 lobbyists terminated their registration. To date we have registered 456 lobbyists and deposited with the Department of Revenue \$90,800.00 of the registration fees collected from those lobbyist.

As mandated by the Ordinance, on February 6, 2006, staff sent 185 certified (and duplicate regular) mail notices to registered lobbyists who had not filed their 2006 registration statements and/or 2005 activity reports by January 20, 2006. The notice recited that filing compliance must occur by February 20, 2006, or the lobbyist is subject to fines of up to \$500 per day.

D. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

Since the last meeting the following requests for review of documents were received:

1. One request for one employee's Statements of Financial Interests, for 1998 - 2005; forms (8) for those years were produced and copied.
2. One request for one employee's Statement of Financial Interests, for 2005; that form was produced and copied.
3. One request for one employee's Statement of Financial Interests, for 2005; that form was produced and copied.
4. One request for all personnel records for one employee; the Statement of Financial Interests form for 2003 was copied and sent to requestor.
5. One request for one employee's Statements of Financial Interests, for 2003 - 2005; the three (3) forms were produced and copied.
6. One request for three employees' Statements of Financial Interests, for 1998 - 2005; 8 forms for each of two of the employees were produced and copied, for the third employee (7) forms for 1999 - 2005 were produced and copied.
7. One request for one employee's Statement of Financial Interests, for 2005; that form was produced and copied.
8. One request for one lobbyist's Registration and Activity Reports, for 2005; there were no records to be produced.
9. One request for two employees' Statement of Financial Interests, for all available years; records are being researched.
10. One request for three lobbyist's Registration and Activity Reports, for 2005; records are being researched.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Mary Beth Robinson absent) to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:24 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.