

BOARD OF ETHICS

Open Session Minutes

July 15, 2009 - 3:04 p.m.
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

Miguel A. Ruiz, Chair
Thomas McCarthy
John L. Wilhelm, M.D.
Michael F. Quirk

Staff Present

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

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 4-0 to approve the Open Session Minutes of the June 17, 2009 meeting.

II. Chair's Report

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

A. Education-Classes

Since the last Board meeting, staff has conducted 2 regularly scheduled classes for persons required to attend ethics training. 10 attended on June 18, and 13 on July 2. There are currently 32 scheduled for July 16, and 34 for August 6.

On June 24, the Executive Director participated in a panel discussion at the Chicago law firm of Ungaretti & Harris, at the invitation of the firm. The panel focused on state law changes and City ethics and lobbying ordinances. About 75 persons attended.

At the request of Alderman Tunney, on June 25 staff made a 90 minute presentation on ethics and campaign financing to contractors and employees of the 44th Ward.

At the request of the Commissioner of Aviation, on June 26 staff made the second of 4 presentations to 200 Department of Aviation contractors working at O'Hare. This one was taped for future presentations to departmental vendors. This may lead to training for concessionaires at both airports as well.

On July 17, at the request of the Mayor's Office and the Department of State, staff will make a 60 minute presentation to five visiting government officials from various islands in the Republic of Indonesia.

B. Mandatory Annual Ethics Education

To date, 23,600 employees and 4 aldermen have completed the 2009 mandatory annual online ethics training program. This is approximately 2/3 of the total expected number for the year.

C. Statements of Financial Interests

As of this afternoon, there remain 23 employees and 5 appointed officials who have still not filed their forms by May 31, as required by law. There will be more on these individuals in closed session.

To date in 2009, the office has collected \$7,380 in late filing fees.

D. Lobbyist Registration

There are currently **613** lobbyists that have registered with the City for this year. To date, approximately **\$127,600.00** in lobbyist registration fees have been deposited with the Department of Revenue.

On June 22, staff sent reminders to all registered lobbyists of the upcoming July 20 semi-annual lobbyist activity report-filing deadline. To date, about 138 have filed their reports.

E. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

Since the last regularly scheduled Board meeting, the office has not received any new requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

F. Proposed Ordinance Amendment

Staff is preparing to appear before the City Council's Finance and Government Operations Committees regarding the proposed amendment to require lobbyist training and raise lobbyist fees. We expect that appearance to be later this month.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

The Board VOTED 4-0 to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:08 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.

bd-08-24-09[1].os.wpd