

BOARD OF ETHICS

Open Session Minutes

February 5, 2009 - 3:06 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

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 4-0 to approve the Open Session minutes of the December 17, 2009 meeting. The January 2009 meeting was canceled due to a lack of a quorum.

II. Chair's Report

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

A. Education-Classes

Since the last Board meeting, staff has conducted 4 regularly scheduled classes for persons required to attend ethics training. 19 attended on December 18, 21 on January 8, 8 on January 22, and 16 on February 5. There are currently 24 scheduled for February 26, 26 for March 12, and 16 for March 26.

At the request of O'Hare Modernization Program's Director, staff will again make 4 presentations to about 500 contractors of the OMP, on March 27, June 26, September 11 and December 18.

B. Mandatory Annual Ethics Education

I am very pleased to report that last week staff completed the final tallies for 2008, including all year-end personnel transactions, and that the City is 100% compliant with the 2008 requirement for mandatory ethics training. 35,776 full-time employees and 50 aldermen completed their 2008 training, as required by the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance.

Staff is currently working with DOIT to post the all-new 2009 version of the training, and I anticipate that it will be ready in about 2 weeks.

C. Statements of Financial Interests

Staff will distribute the 2009 Statements of Financial Interests and accompanying notices on February 27; the law requires the Board to notify all persons required to file with it by March 1. I anticipate about 11,000 filers this year.

D. Lobbyist Registration

By law, registered lobbyists must file their 2009 statements of registration (or termination notices), and their activity reports, by January 20, 2009. To date, staff has processed the registrations of 393 lobbyists, and is currently working on processing those of 157 more. On February 4, as required by law, staff sent 103 lobbyist notices of the January 20 filing deadline by certified mail.

To date, approximately **\$70,400** in lobbyist registration fees have been deposited with the Department of Revenue.

E. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

Since the last regularly scheduled Board meeting, the office has received 4 requests under the Freedom of Information Act; 6 Statements of Financial Interests for 1 appointed official, one misdirected request, and 2 for 30 lobbyist documents for 3 lobbyists.

F. Information Technology Update

On February 18, staff is scheduled to meet with the City's CIO and other officials from DOIT and the Mayor's Office regarding moving forward with a web-based lobbyist registration and reporting system with an interactive, queryable database; replacing and migrating the mandatory quadrennial ethics training scheduling and tracking program, currently run from a mainframe platform; and creating an on-line system for filing and storage of annual Statements of Financial Interests. The current program is also run from a mainframe program.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

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The Board VOTED 4-0 to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:13 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.

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