

Board of Ethics

Open Session Minutes

March 20, 2012 - 3:36 p.m.
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

Miguel A. Ruiz, Chair
Tiffany Chappell Ingram
Thomas Mc Carthy
Lisa M. Taylor
John L. Wilhelm, M.D.

Eileen Libby (Absent)

Staff Present

Steven I. Berlin, Executive Director
Lisa S. Eilers, Deputy Director
Richard J. Superfine, Legal Counsel
Edward Primer, Program Director
Pully Casillas, Staff Assistant

Attendee Present

Faisal Khan, Legislative Inspector General

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 5-0 (Eileen Libby, absent) to approve the Open Session Minutes of the February 15, 2012 meeting.

II. Chair's Report

III. Executive Director's Report

Thomas Mc Carthy joined the Open Session meeting in session at 3:36 p.m.

A. Staff Hiring

Our new staff Attorney/Investigator, Ana Collazo, will be joining us on April 2. She is a 2001 graduate of Loyola University Law School and received her B.A. from Susquehanna University. She is currently employed as an Assistant Inspector General at the Office of the Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor.

B. Education–Classes

Staff conducted a class for 30 employees of a vendor on March 16 in Oak Brook, at the request of the Chief Procurement Officer. On the evening of March 22, we will conduct a session for members of the Harlem Foster Neighborhood Association (citizens), at the request of its

Executive Director, then on March 23 for approximately 55 food sanitarians at the Chicago Department of Public Health, at the request of their commissioner. Last, on April 9, we will host a delegation of 15 visiting officials from Pakistan, at the request of the Mayor's Office.

C. Education–Mandatory Annual Ethics Education

The 2012 annual program is currently in the City's test server and we intend to have it posted early next week.

129 registered lobbyists have completed the 2011-2012 program. All lobbyists must complete it by June 30, 2012.

D. Lobbyists

To date, we have received and processed 618 lobbyist registrations. 39 remain with filing deficiencies, and there remain 2 non-filers, who will be the subject of further discussion in closed session. We have collected \$272,000 in registration fees.

E. Statements of Financial Interests

On February 29 and March 1, as required by law, we notified 14,236 City employees and officials of their requirement to file 2012 Statements of Financial Interests. This is a decrease of 10.4% in the number of required filers. The salary rate requiring filing is \$80,700 for 2012. To date, 4300 filers have filed through our EFIS system; another 600 have filed by paper. This puts us at about 34.4% compliance. This is a 20% increase in compliance for mid-March from last year.

F. E-Lobbying RFP

We are working intensively with our development team at Crowe Horwath, and are on track to roll out the e-lobbying system by May 1. It will enable lobbyists to file all reports on-line, and provide enhanced reporting and transparency. My continuing gratitude to our staff, DOIT and our vendors at Crowe Horwath is very much in order.

G. Sister Agency Ethics Officers' Consortium Working Group

On March 21, we have our next meeting with the ethics officers from CPS, CTA, CHA and City Colleges regarding issues of common concern.

H. Ethics Ordinance/EDS Amendments

I attended the public meeting on February 15 at Olive-Harvey College, and Lisa Eilers and I

attended the second meeting on March 12 at Truman College. As a result, U.I.C. Professor Dick Simpson and 2 of his colleagues and Task Force Chair Canary and an attorney from Jones Day came to take our on line training.

I. Possible amendments to the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act

The committee convened by Lt. Gov. Simon to propose revisions to the state ethics form, the "Statement of Economic Interests" (which 3,000 City personnel file every year) met again January 13. The committee has completed its work, and the drafters presented their version last week and await comments from various elected officials.

J. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

Since the last regularly scheduled Board meeting, the office has received no new requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

The Board VOTED 5-0 (Eileen Libby, absent) to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:45 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.