

BOARD OF ETHICS
Open Session Minutes
December 14, 2005 - 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

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Mary Beth S. Robinson absent) to approve the Open Session minutes of the November 16, 2005 meeting, as amended.

II. Chair's Report

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

A. Education

Since the last Board meeting, staff has conducted 3 regularly scheduled classes for persons required to attend by law, on November 17 and December 7 and 14. A total of 77 employees attended.

Before the next Board meeting, there are classes scheduled, on January 4, 11 and 17. A total of 134 employees are scheduled to attend.

At the request of the Corporation Counsel, staff has made 4 90-minute presentations to approximately 165 attorneys in the Law Department. There are 2 remaining sessions, to be held on December 15 and January 19, and 70 persons are scheduled to attend.

At the request of the Director of the O'Hare Modernization Project, staff made 10 one hour presentations to approximately 163 contractors of the agency. These were made

on November 30, and December 1, 5, 6, 8 and 12. Staff developed a contractor educational brochure for handout at these sessions.

There are approximately 18 persons in the Mayor's Office, 38 Aldermen and 25 Department Heads who are required to attend quadrennial ethics training by February 28. These classes have been tentatively scheduled for January.

Board staff has been asked by the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to address the City's, federal, state and local legislative liaisons at their seminar to be held December 20, 2005 at Chicago Cultural Center.

On December 13, the Executive Director testified in front of the joint City Council Committee of Technology and Rules and Ethics. The subject was on the proposed substitute legislation for mandatory annual ethics training of all aldermen and City employees submitted by Alderman Laurino and Alderman Allen. The substitute Ordinance was passed out of committee to be submitted to the full council today. The law was adopted by full Council this afternoon and will likely become effective in 30 days. Because the original legislation included only employees, Board staff must now rewrite a program that covers the law as it applied to alderman.

Matt Crowl of the Mayor's staff is proposing that 90 minute Integrity Forums be conducted for every City agency, over the next few months, for all levels of employees. Among others, participants will include, Department Commissioners, the Chief of Staff, Corporation Counsel, this Board's Executive Director and the Inspector General. The first forum is tentatively scheduled for the Department of Streets and Sanitation on January 9, 2006.

B. 2004-2005 Annual Report

Copies of the Board's 2004-2005 Annual Report were distributed on December 2 to all elected officials, department heads and mayoral senior staff. The report was posted on the Board's website on December 5.

C. Statements of Financial Interests

During executive session of today's meeting, staff will provide an updated report on the non-filers of Statements of Financial Interests for this filing year.

D. Lobbyist Registration

There are currently 644 lobbyists that have registered with the City. Since the last meeting, 3 lobbyists terminated their registration.

To date, \$128,800 in lobbyist registration fees has been collected, \$600 of which has not yet been deposited with the Department of Revenue.

The on-line lobbyist registration program was not completed by the Business Information Services development team, so all lobbyists registration filings for the January 20, 2006 registration period will be by hard copy. Board staff will continue to work towards completing development of that program with Business Information Services personnel, for use in the July 2006 activity report filing period.

E. Campaign Financing

During the closed session of this afternoon's meeting, Board staff will present the last of the campaign financing cases for the 2002-2003 reporting year.

Review of contributions during the 2003-2004 reporting year is underway. Staff has reviewed the Reports of Campaign Contribution (D2s) filed by the political committees of the 53 sitting City elected officials. Staff has identified 330 instances in which a contributor is reported as having given more than \$1,500 in aggregate contributions to an elected official during the reporting year (that number should be compared to the 800 instances identified for the 2002-2003 reporting year). Staff will now cross-check those 330 names against City and sister-agency records to determine whether the contributor was subject to the CFO limitations (as a lobbyist or as a person doing business/seeking to do business with the City or "sister" agencies). Staff expects to present the first of the 2003-2004 cases to the Board at the January 2006 meeting.

Staff expects to commence review of 2004-2005 reporting year contributions on/about April 1, 2006.

F. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

Since last meeting, there have been no requests, to review documents filed with this agency.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

G. Public Notice of Board of Ethics Meetings' Schedule for 2006

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Mary Beth S. Robinson absent) that the meeting dates for year 2006 are as follows:

Wednesday, January 11	Wednesday, July 19
Wednesday, February 15	Wednesday, August 16
Wednesday, March 15	Wednesday, September 13
Wednesday, April 19	Wednesday, October 18
Wednesday, May 17	Wednesday, November 15
Wednesday, June 14	Wednesday, December 13

All meetings will be held at 3:00 p.m. at the Board of Ethics, 740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Mary Beth S. Robinson absent) to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:34 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.