



**The Board of Ethics**

March 18, 2010

Mr. James Owczarski  
Deputy Clerk  
City Clerk's Office  
200 East Wells St., Room 205  
City of Milwaukee

Dear Mr. Owczarski,

This is a courtesy letter to inform you of the events that have taken place since you met with the Board of Ethics on Wednesday February 17, 2010 to express your concerns about November 2009 revisions to the Ethics Board Rules and Procedures documents.

Since the February Board meeting, a subcommittee of the Board was appointed to reconsider the Rules in light of your presentation at the Board meeting. That subcommittee met last week and reviewed the revised Rules, taking into account your comments and recommendations. The subcommittee made certain revisions to the document to try to address your concerns. Those suggestions were presented to the Board on Wednesday March 17, 2010 and the full Board approved the Rules and Procedures as revised and recommended by the subcommittee.

The latest revision of the Ethics Board Rules and Procedures is attached. It is the "mark-up" version which shows all changes since the last revision in 2005. All wording that has been added is highlighted in grey and all wording that has been deleted is "lined-out".

The Board has requested that a file be opened at the next meeting of the Common Council to approve the revised Rules and Procedures, as is required by the Code of Ordinances.

As you will note, the new changes made by the Board include a new provision entitled "General Governing Rules" which makes clear that the Wisconsin Statutes and Milwaukee Code of Ordinances (Chapter 303) shall prevail in the event of any conflict between the Board's Rules and Procedures and the Wisconsin Statutes and Code of Ordinances. The Board has determined that some quotations, with applicable citations to the Code of Ethics, are necessary to have a useful set of Rules and Procedures. The

Board has revised the layout of the Rules in order that any excerpt from the Ordinances contained in the Rules will be italicized to highlight that the wording comes directly from the Ordinances and cited to the specific Code provision excerpted.

The Board hopes that these further revisions will alleviate your concerns and that the City Clerk's Office will not oppose the approval of the proposed Rules and Procedures by the Common Council. However, if it is determined that the City Clerk's Office will oppose the approval of the Board's Rules and Procedures, we welcome the opportunity to advise the Common Council why the Board feels the Rules and Procedures should be approved as proposed.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dwight Ellis".

Dwight Ellis, Chair  
Ethics Board

Attachments

cc: Mr. Ronald D. Leonhardt, City Clerk  
Members of the Board of Ethics  
Mr. Edward Ehrlich