



BOARD OF ETHICS
CITY OF CHICAGO

NEWS RELEASE
October 22, 2015

Pursuant to §2-156-380(n-1) of the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance (eff. September 10, 2014), the Board of Ethics today made referrals to the Offices of the Inspector General and Legislative Inspector General regarding ***possible*** violations of the Ordinance's campaign contribution limitations by political contributors and the political committees of elected City officials and candidates for elected City office (including unsuccessful candidates) that reported having accepted contributions from them in 2014, the year immediately preceding the Consolidated Municipal election and runoffs in February and April 2015.

City Ordinance limits *only* certain persons — City and sister agency contractors, persons seeking to do business with the City or its sister agencies, or registered lobbyists — to \$1,500 in political contributions per elected City official or candidate for elected City office (or his or her authorized political committee) per calendar year. Thus, for a violation to exist, a person must have BOTH make a political contribution that exceeds the \$1500 limit AND, at the time of the contribution, have been either a lobbyist, a City or sister agency contractor for the four years preceding the contribution, or a person seeking to do business with the City or its named sister agencies.

On September 10, 2014, the City Council granted the Board of Ethics the power and duty to review publicly available campaign finance filings (these are made pursuant to State law with the Illinois State Board of Elections) for compliance with these limitations, and then refer ***possible*** violations to the appropriate inspector general for investigation.

Accordingly, the Board exercised its duty and reviewed public reports of campaign contributions made and accepted in 2014 to and by all City elected officials and all candidates for elected City office for the 2015 election and runoff. The Board then compiled a list consisting of all persons whose contribution(s) exceeded \$1,500 in 2014 to any single political committee of a City elected official or candidate for elected City office. This list of names forms the basis of the referrals.

The Board has made NO investigation of whether any of the persons named in the referrals were lobbyists, City contractors or persons seeking to do business when they made their contributions. Accordingly, the Board has no basis to assert that any of these persons are in violation of the Ordinance.



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Only through investigations could actual violations be identified and resolved. The Board of Ethics does not have the authority to conduct these investigations. These investigations can be conducted only by the City Inspector General or the Legislative Inspector General, if they choose to do so.

Today, the Board made these referrals to the Inspector General and the Legislative Inspector General, as complaints. The law requires that the referrals remain confidential at this time.

The Board has made these referrals for the 2014 calendar year. At the appropriate time in 2016, the Board will make referrals for the 2015 calendar year.

For more information about the City's campaign financing law, please see our website:
www.cityofchicago.org/Ethics

For information on reported campaign contributions, please see the website of the Illinois State Board of Elections:
<http://www.elections.state.il.us/CampaignDisclosure/ContributionsSearchByAllContributions.aspx>