

To the Honorable Mayor of Milwaukee
and the Common Council

**The City of Milwaukee Board of Ethics
2010 Annual Report**

The City of Milwaukee Board of Ethics administers the Code of Ethics, Chapter 303, which promotes the essential elements of public trust. The Board works to implement the Code by issuing confidential advisory opinions, investigating sworn complaints, requiring and reviewing Statements of Economic Interests of city employees and board members.

The year was a year of change for the Board with the departure of its long-serving Research Assistant, Nola Devereaux, in April. Due to the budget constraints faced by city departments, the Board chose to use existing City Clerk staff to meet its needs. With a change in staff, the Board moved forward in a number of areas, particularly in the use of more technology. The City Clerk's Office, effective for the 2010 filings, will begin posting the Statement of Economic Interests on the Ethics Board web site as an interactive form in order to facilitate the completion of the form. Members also receive information now electronically, rather than in paper, which provides a savings to the City as well as a more timely receipt of information for review by the Board.

In 2010, the Board responded to one complaint and six requests for opinions. A summary of the opinion requests are included in this report. These summaries should not be viewed as definitive advice, but rather as guides to the type of situations addressed by the Board.

The seven citizen members of the Board for 2010 were:

Dwight Ellis – Chair

Annie Wacker – Vice-Chair

Devon Turner

Patricia Hintz

Joanne Barndt

Robert Shelledy

Martha Toran

Summary of Opinions Issued In 2010

10-1 Potential Conflict of Interest

A city official was a member of a committee in which a building owner was applying for a city license or permit and he was the property owner. The Board found that no conflict existed as there was no financial gain to the official.

10-2 Trust

A city employee or official requested information on how his/her Statement of Economic Interest should be amended with the creation of a trust for a dependent child. The Board noted that the major issue is whether a trust is revocable by this person and how income/assets should be reported on the Statement.

10-3 and 10-4 City employees subcontracting with the city

City employees with private companies wished to lease equipment and hire drivers to provide services to the city. The Board found no conflict of interest as the city employees were working when the city needed them and they were not using any city equipment.

10-5 Raffle prize

An employee won a raffle prize at a conference for which the city paid his/her attendance fees. The Board found that the employee could keep the prize and not report it on the Statement of Economic Interests as it was a prize, not a gift.

10-6 Lobbying as a former city employee

A former city employee queried the Board as to when he or she could begin lobbying city officials and staff after leaving city employment.

The Board also addressed one confidential complaint received from a citizen.