

September 14, 2005

Philadelphia Board of Ethics Launches New Web Site

Philadelphia, PA, -- The Philadelphia Board of Ethics has launched its first web site. The new web page can be found at: <http://www.phila.gov/ethicsboard>.

The Board of Ethics' web site will enable City officials and employees to access information about the current ethics rules and recent ethics legislation. The Board's public meeting schedule and the new ethics training calendar are also posted on the site. City officials and employees who are required to file financial disclosure statements each year will be able to download the forms directly from the site. In addition, City officials and employees will be able to ask for ethics advice through the web site and people will be able to report their concerns to the Board electronically.

"The new web site assembles critical information about the ethics rules that City employees will be able to navigate with ease," said Charisse R. Lillie, Chairperson of the Board of Ethics. "The City's workforce and the public have never had better access to information about the ethics rules, how they have been interpreted and how they might be improved. The site will also enable City officials and workers to seek guidance from the Board when they have questions about how the rules might apply in situations they face in the course of their public service."

The Board of Ethics' web page was created with technical assistance from the Mayor's Office of Information Services, with additional support from the Law, Records and Personnel Departments and City Council Staff.

Acting on the recommendations of the Ethics Committee of the Twenty-First Century Review Forum, Mayor John F. Street reconstituted the Board of Ethics by Executive Order on August 12, 2004. The Executive Order gave the Board clear responsibilities and authorized the Board to hire staff, including an Executive Director, to assist the Board carry out its duties, which include:

- Providing education and training to all city employees on the city's ethics rules and regulations.

- Reviewing for conflicts of interest financial disclosure forms that many city officials and candidates for city offices are required to file. The Board will advise the City Solicitor and the Inspector General of any potential problems detected, for further investigation.
- Reviewing ethics questions concerning the conduct of city officials. The Board will work closely with the Law Department on any issues that arise, and will make advisory opinions to requesting officials or employees.
- Recommend improvements or advances in laws and policies that would strengthen confidence in government and promote public trust.

In addition to Ms. Lillie, who is Vice President for Human Resources at Comcast Corporation, the Board of Ethics includes Vice Chairman Daniel P. McElhatton, Esq., a partner in the law firm Christie, Pabarue, Mortensen & Young, P.C., and City Solicitor Romulo L. Diaz, Jr.

Earlier this year, the Board hired J. Shane Creamer, Jr., Esq., to be the first Executive Director to the Board. Mr. Creamer began working in that position on May 23, 2005. Other staff is Senior Attorney Evan Meyer, Ethics Counsel in the Law Department.

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