



Illinois Reform Commission

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For Immediate Release

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ILLINOIS REFORM COMMISSION URGES GOVERNOR QUINN TO ISSUE EXECUTIVE ORDER ON TRANSPARENCY

CHICAGO (February 11, 2009) – The Illinois Reform Commission delivered a letter today to Governor Quinn urging him to swiftly address the need for greater transparency in government. The letter asks the Governor to immediately issue an executive order to all state agencies, boards and commissions under his control, directing those public bodies to fully comply with all provisions of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") and the Open Meetings Act, and to maximize transparency in their operations. In addition, the letter urges the Governor to support vigorous enforcement efforts, including legal proceedings to force compliance, when necessary. The Illinois Reform Commission's letter represents its initial proposal for immediate action. More detailed recommendations on improving transparency will follow in the Commission's full report.

This most recent action by the Illinois Reform Commission is in response to the testimony that was heard during the last open meeting of the Commission on February 5th. At that meeting, the Commission began to examine the operations of Illinois state government and whether the government was sufficiently transparent, open and accessible to the citizens of Illinois. The Commission heard compelling testimony that government agencies in Illinois too often operate in secretive ways that tend to foster corruption, and the Commissioners concluded that immediate action was appropriate.

A draft of the letter was reviewed by all Illinois Reform Commissioners and was also accessible for feedback from the public via the Commission's website prior to being sent to the Governor today.

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