

The New York Times

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November 1, 2006

## Ethics Bills Up for Vote In Newark

By ANDREW JACOBS

This city's Municipal Council has agreed to a sweeping package of ethics legislation meant to transform a place once notorious for its backroom, palm-greasing, quid pro quo ways into one of the most transparently run cities in the nation.

The measures, a centerpiece of Mayor Cory Booker's drive to shake up City Hall, would cap campaign contributions at \$300 for individuals who do business with Newark, ban all donations from those engaged in redevelopment projects and require builders seeking zoning variances to publicly reveal past political contributions.

Among the six ordinances that the Council is expected to approve on Wednesday is a rule that outlaws fund-raising on public property and another that creates a position of inspector general to oversee complaints of fraud and ethics breaches. The measures will apply to both the mayor and the nine council members as well as to future candidates. All but two of the current council members were elected in July.

Mr. Booker has also said he would sign a separate executive order on Wednesday that forbids municipal employees from giving money to mayoral candidates.

"This legislation will put Newark on the cutting edge of pay-to-play reform not only in New Jersey but in the nation," said Harry Pozycki, chairman of the Citizens' Campaign, an advocacy group that helped draft the legislation. "It basically draws a line in the sand against corrupting influences and says Newark is open for honest business."

Craig Holman, the campaign-finance lobbyist for Public Citizen, the government watchdog group, said he knew of no other city that had passed such far-reaching ethics reform legislation. "This is massive," he said. "Even localities that have endured a grave scandal haven't gone this far."

Councilman Ronald Rice, who championed the legislation, said he expected the reforms to pass by a vote of 6 to 3. During a Council meeting on Tuesday at which the majority agreed to the legislation in principle, he pleaded with the holdouts who worried that the new laws may hamstring their re-election bids. He argued that because he ran as a reformer, he was able to raise \$10,000 from across the country donated through the Internet.

"This will be beneficial in ways that are innumerable for this city, in terms of the kinds of developers we draw here and keeping out those who have poisoned this city for years," Mr. Rice said. "Let's make history."

