



Atlanta Ethics

Volume 11, Issue 1 Fall 2017

In Action



BOARD OF ETHICS

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- ◆ *September 21, 2017*
- ◆ *October 19, 2017*
- ◆ *November 16, 2017*

Note: All regular meetings of the Board of Ethics are held at 6pm EST in City Council Committee Room 1. The public is invited to attend all board meetings.

ETHICS Q&A

Lisa is a former city employee who retired in July of 2017. A city contractor, who Lisa worked with while she was employed with the City, asks her to come work for him on an ongoing City project. Lisa was heavily involved in this project for the City.

Q1: Can Lisa go work for the contractor a month later?

Q2: Can Lisa go work for the contractor 6 months later?

Q3: Can Lisa go work for the contractor a year later but on another project?

2017 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

It's that time again! The 2017 election season is in full swing. Residents of the City of Atlanta will soon head to the polls to elect a new Mayor, City Council President, City Council, Municipal Court Judges and members of the Atlanta Board of Education!

The City's Board of Ethics has limited jurisdiction over the upcoming election. The Board's primary concern is with the use of city property for private advantage. For example, candidates should not use city property, such as city email addresses or the city seal, for campaign communications or soliciting donations. Candidates should also note that campaign flyers and signs may not be displayed in city buildings or city vehicles.

City personnel who receive campaign emails in their City of Atlanta inbox, witness someone handing out campaign materials at an official city event, or see campaign flyers posted in a city building or on a city vehicle, should contact the Ethics Office or call the Integrity Hotline.

The Board of Ethics does not have jurisdiction over campaign finance matters. The City of Atlanta Municipal Clerk's Office is the filing agency for all local campaign disclosure reports and state-required disclosures. To view or obtain campaign disclosure reports, visit www.gaeasyfile.org or call the Office of the Municipal Clerk at (404) 330-6500.

FACT

The Ethics Office handles complaints about the use of city property for campaign purposes.



Ethics Officer, Jabu Sengova, addresses the General Municipal Election Campaign Briefing Session held on July 21, 2017 at City Hall.

VISIT WWW.ATLANTAETHICS.ORG/NEWSLETTER
FOR THE ANSWERS TO THIS ISSUE'S ETHICS Q&A

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A LESSON ON ETHICS

The "Grateful" Citizen

Carol, Dawn and William work on a Solid Waste Collection team and collect curbside waste along an assigned route. One day while collecting waste, a citizen comes out of her house, thanks Carol and her team for their hard work and hands Carol a gift bag. Carol is reluctant to accept the gift but does not want to offend the citizen.

FICTION

City employees may receive tips from citizens as a thank you for work performed on behalf of the City.

When the team returns to the office, they open the gift bag and find \$100 and two bottles of wine. They are not sure what to do. William insists they keep the gift, grabs one of the bottles of wine and leaves for the day. Carol is confused but decides to keep the gift. The following week while on their route, the citizen greets them again and asks Carol to collect an old couch. Carol explains they are not allowed to do so. The citizen demands return of her gift and threatens to call the City if they do not take the couch. Carol is upset and does not know what to do. *(Note: names used above are fictional)*

MORAL OF THE STORY: Think before you accept! Some gifts may have strings attached!

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2017 TRANSPARENT DIAMOND AWARDS

The Board of Ethics and the Ethics Office held the 11th annual **Transparent Diamond Awards ceremony** as a part of its regularly scheduled Board Meeting on May 18, 2017 at City Hall. 15 city departments and 39 city boards were honored for exemplary compliance with the City's financial disclosure law. Visit www.atlantaethics.org for a full list of award recipients.



Pictured left to right: Ethics Board member, Todd Gray, presents the Transparent Diamond Award to Chief Byron Kennedy and Deputy Chief Chad Jones of Atlanta Fire Rescue.

NEW ETHICS OFFICER APPOINTED

In February 2017, City Council confirmed the appointment of Jabu M. Sengova as the City's new Ethics Officer. She has served in the positions of both Associate Ethics Officer and Interim Ethics Officer since November 2008. Ms. Sengova brings her passion and experience to building a strong ethical culture. The Board of Ethics believes she will continue to advance the City's strong reputation for and interest in ethics to the benefit of the citizens of Atlanta.

BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

The Board of Ethics welcomes Dr. Gerry Neumark, appointed by the Atlanta Planning Advisory Board, to replace long serving member Carol Snype Crawford. Dr. Neumark is a faculty member of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University.

VISIT WWW.ATLANTAETHICS.ORG FOR MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF ETHICS



City of Atlanta Ethics Office
68 Mitchell Street, SW
Suite 1100
Atlanta, GA 30303
Tel: (404) 330-6286

Integrity Hotline

1-800-884-0911

ethicsofficer@atlantaga.gov
www.atlantaethics.org