



Atlanta Ethics

Volume 14, Summer 2020 Issue

In Action



GOVERNING BOARD

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- ◆ August 20, 2020
- ◆ September 17, 2020

Due to the closure of City Hall, the Governing Board plans to hold regular meetings remotely.

Detailed meeting information will be posted at www.atlantaethics.org

ETHICS Q&A

Mark is a non-essential, full-time city employee who has been mandated to work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also has a second job as a rideshare driver. Due to the sudden increase in demand for food deliveries, the rideshare company offers Mark more money to drive during the day.

Q: Can Mark drive for the rideshare company during the day?

1. Mark can drive during the day if he does his city work at night.
2. Mark can drive during the daytime if he gets permission from his supervisor.
3. Mark can drive during the day if he does so during his lunch hour.

CITY CREATES OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

In February of this year, the City approved Ordinance [19-O-1729](#) creating a new Office of the Inspector General in the City of Atlanta Charter. The Ordinance, which incorporated many of the recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force for the Promotion of Public Trust, further established an independent Governing Board of the Office of the Inspector General.

Comprised of nine volunteer members, the Board is poised to continue the work of prior city Ethics Boards toward increased transparency, compliance and ethics, and the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse in city government.

Under the direction of the City Ethics Officer, the Ethics Division (Ethics Office) will continue to educate and promote a culture of ethics at all levels of city government, investigate ethics matters, issue advice and advisory opinions, administer the City's financial disclosure process and audit statements for accuracy.

Led by the Inspector General, the Compliance Division will focus on deterrence and investigation of potential fraud, waste and abuse. The Independent Procurement Review Division (IPRO) will continue its work under the Inspector General reviewing contracts valued at more than one million dollars.

The Governing Board oversees the three divisions of the Office of the Inspector General



The Office of the Inspector General is comprised of the Compliance, Ethics and Independent Procurement Review Divisions.



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

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A LESSON ON ETHICS

Excerpt from "Ethical Leadership Practices in a Pandemic"

An international health crisis, like the coronavirus pandemic, reinforces the value of ethical leadership. Leadership is needed in all members of society. In these moments, the benefits of making decisions with the consideration of others in mind become even clearer.

The cornerstone of an ethical leadership practice is the model for expected behavior individual leaders provide to others. Ethical leaders move decisively to serve the public over private or organizational goals. Officials in elected and appointed office who self-quarantine following exposure, are one example of model behavior, of placing the public's interests above their personal freedom.

Ethical behavior in a public health crisis is where we all follow local and federal recommendations and mandates to "flatten the curve," and leaders must be an example. Mistakes have been made, both small and large, in response to this virus. If we can learn from those mistakes, and improve public health outcomes, it is worth it.

Leaders should strive to address things systematically. Ethical deliberation begins with using data and information to make decisions. Without data, ethical decision making is far more challenging. We can all be ethical leaders in our own lives to influence the big picture, long-term outcome for ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities.

Ann Skeet is the senior director of Leadership Ethics at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics. Views are her own. You may read the entire article by clicking here: <https://www.scu.edu/ethics/leadership-ethics-blog/ethical-leadership-practices-in-a-pandemic/>

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ETHICS DIVISION LAUNCHES NEW E-FILE SYSTEM

The Ethics Division is proud to announce the launch of its new ethics e-file system. The public can view or download copies of filed City Financial Disclosure Statements, Travel Disclosure, Conflict of Interest, and Gift to the City reports. Ethics complaints can also be filed electronically using the site.



For the **2020 City Financial Disclosure filing season**, 3,320 city officials and employees have filed disclosure statements using the new system.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH INITIATIVES

New Ethics E-learning Courses will be available soon!!

The courses will focus on the City of Atlanta's Code of Ethics, Financial Disclosure, New Employee Orientation and more.

BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

The Governing Board of the Office of the Inspector General welcomes **Vic Hartman**, nominee of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. Mr. Hartman is a retired FBI Agent and attorney, and owns a forensic examiner's firm in Atlanta. Board members are appointed to serve three-year terms.

VISIT WWW.ATLANTAETHICS.ORG FOR MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE ETHICS DIVISION



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