

**City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Meeting
Minutes of September 20, 2012**

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was called to order by Chair Caroline Johnson Tanner at 6:07 p.m. in the City Council Committee Room 2, 55 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Attending the meeting were board members Brent Adams, MaryAnne Gaunt, Shukura Ingram Millender, and Kate Wasch; Carol Snype Crawford was absent. Staff members Nina R. Hickson and Jabu M. Sengova also attended; Sherry H. Dawson was absent.

MINUTES

1. The Board approved the minutes of the July 19 meeting on a motion by Ms. Ingram and a second by Ms. Wasch.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

2. CO-11-006. In the Matter of Tracy Reed

Ms. Hickson presented and recommended approval of a settlement agreement with former city employee Tracy Reed. Mr. Reed acknowledged that he took a city vehicle home overnight without the requisite written authorization in violation of Section 2-811 of the Code of Ethics. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Adams moved to adopt the settlement agreement, with a second by Ms. Millender. The Board approved the settlement unanimously.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE HEARINGS

3. No Appeals Filed – Nonfilers

Ms. Sengova presented the first group of nonfilers which included former employees and current board members. Following evidence presented by Ms. Sengova and a discussion by the Board, Ms. Ingram made a motion to adopt Ms. Sengova's recommendation to uphold the administrative decisions finding that the former employees and current board members violated section 2-814(e) of the Code of Ethics by failing to file the 2012 Financial Disclosure Statement by the filing deadline without reasonable cause, impose an administrative sanction of \$500 and issue a public reprimand; as well as recommend to the City that it consider the former employees ineligible for rehire for one year and require them to file their statements and pay the fines owed prior to reemployment by the City. Ms. Gaunt made an amendment to the motion to include that the Board recommend to the respective appointing authorities that the current board members be removed from office for their failure to file. Mr. Adams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. No Appeals Filed – Late Filers

The second group of individuals involved late filers, which included former employees and one former board member. Following evidence presented by Ms. Sengova, Mr. Adams moved to uphold the administrative decisions and find that the late filers failed to file the 2012 Financial Disclosure Statement by the filing deadline without reasonable cause, impose an administrative sanction of \$50 and issue a public reprimand; as well as recommend that the City consider the former employees

ineligible for rehire for one year and require them to pay the fines owed prior to reemployment by the City. Ms. Gaunt seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Sengova delivered a brief status report to the Board on financial disclosure cases that have been closed since the July board meeting. Concerning the late filers, two cases were closed and the fines suspended. In the non-filer category, one person was removed from the 2012 Required Filers List and the other person's file was closed administratively.

ETHICS OFFICER'S REPORT

5. FY13 Budget and FY12 Budget Report

Ms. Hickson presented the approved FY13 Budget which allocates \$285,799 in personnel expenses and \$65,942 in operating expenses for a total budget of \$351,741. She also reported that the Ethics Office was spending as budgeted for the beginning of fiscal year 2013.

6. 2012-2013 Work Plan

Ms. Hickson reported on activities that support the 2012-2013 Work Plan in the following areas: operations, training, activities, advice, public education and outreach, investigation and enforcement actions, financial disclosure, and legislation and lobbying.

7. Integrity at Work Campaign

The Press Conference and Kick-Off event was held on Tuesday, August 21, 2012 in the City Hall Atrium. Ms. Hickson reported that the event was a great success and featured Mayor Kasim Reed and City Council President Ceasar Mitchell. Ms. Hickson and Ms. Tanner also delivered remarks at the event.

8. Reports on Complaints and Investigations

Ms. Hickson presented a report on complaints and investigations from January 1, 2012 through September 15, 2012, showing that seven new cases were opened, two cases were closed, and five cases remained open.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

9. Ben Howard appeared at the meeting and requested that the Board consider whether it should expand its authority to include jurisdiction over disputes about NPU bylaws.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.



Jabu M. Sengova, Associate Ethics Officer

Approved September 20, 2012