City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2013

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was called to order by Chair Caroline Johnson Tanner at 6:11 p.m. in the City Council Committee Room 2, 55 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Attending the meeting were board members Brent Adams, De'Lonn Brown, Carol Snype Crawford, Shukura Ingram Millender, Kate Wasch and Kai Williamson. Staff members Nina R. Hickson, Jabu M. Sengova and Sherry H. Dawson also attended.

MINUTES

1. The Board approved the minutes of the October 17, 2013 meeting on a motion by Mr. Adams seconded by Ms. Crawford.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

2. CO-13-001. In the Matter of Gregory Nash and Angela Green

Ms. Hickson reported to the Board that the Ethics Office had dismissed the ethics complaint against Mr. Nash and Ms. Green after an investigation and receipt of a letter in which they both resigned as officers of the Metro Atlanta Trustee Training and Education Roundtable, Inc. ("MATTER") The complaint alleged that Mr. Nash and Ms. Green violated the Ethics Code based on the existence of a conflict of interest between their roles as elected trustees to the General Employee's Pension Board ('GEPF") and their roles as officers for MATTER. The alleged conflict was based on the fact that membership dues for MATTER were sought from "prohibited sources". Ms. Hickson reported that the investigation did not find that either Mr. Nash or Ms. Green personally benefitted from the membership dues that were collected and that no dues were collected after their election to the GEFP Board.

3. CO-13-010. In the Matter of Cleta Winslow

Ms. Sengova reported that Torry Lewis filed an ethics complaint alleging that Councilmember Cleta Winslow used her city email, phone, and fax number on a campaign flyer in violation of Section 2-811 which pertains to use of city property for private gain. It was further alleged that campaign workers were passing out these flyers. Based on the investigation by the Ethics Office, there was insufficient evidence to substantiate that Ms. Winslow used city funds to pay for her campaign flyer, and the matter was administratively dismissed.

4. CO-13-012. In the Matter of Cleta Winslow

Ms. Sengova presented the next matter which concerns a second complaint filed by Torry Lewis on October 30, 2013. The complaint alleged that Councilmember Cleta Winslow used city funds to pay for an alleged campaign event in violation of Section 2-811 of the Ethics Code which pertains to use of city property for private gain. Based on the investigation conducted by the Ethics Office, there was insufficient evidence to substantiate that Ms. Winslow used city funds to pay for a campaign event, and the matter was administratively dismissed.

5. CO-13-011. In the Matter of Cleta Winslow

Ms. Hickson presented the next matter which concerns a third complaint filed against Councilmember Cleta Winslow, filed by Torry Lewis. Ms. Winslow was not present at the hearing. The complaint alleged that Ms. Winslow used city funds to provide

transportation services of seniors in her district to her campaign headquarters in violation of Section 2-811 of the Code of Ethics, which pertains to use of city property for private gain. The transportation services were provided by Proview Tours LLC. The Ethics Office reviewed city records as part of its investigation and determined that Ms. Winslow used city funds to pay the vendor. In her written response to the Ethics Office, Ms. Winslow admitted to the violation and reimbursed the city for the funds paid to the vendor. Because Ms. Winslow was found to have violated the Ethics Code for a similar offense in a 2009 ethics case, Ms. Hickson recommended that the Board impose sanctions in the range of \$1,500 to \$3,000. Following a lengthy discussion by the Board, Ms. Millender moved that the Board impose sanctions in the recommended range, which was seconded by Ms. Wasch. Mr. Adams made a friendly amendment to the motion recommending that the fine be set at \$2,000, which was seconded by Ms. Brown. Ms. Millender then moved that the Board impose sanctions of \$2,000 against Councilmember Cleta Winslow in ethics case CO-13-011 to be paid with personal funds by December 31, 2013. Mr. Adams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. CO-12-007. In the Matter of Stanley Domengeaux

Ms. Hickson presented a brief status update concerning this matter. She advised the Board that no settlement was reached in this case and the investigation was still pending.

ETHICS OFFICER'S REPORT

7. FY14 Budget Report

Ms. Hickson presented the approved FY14 Budget which allocates \$344,729 in personnel expenses and \$58,832 in operating expenses for a total budget of \$403,561; and spending was as budgeted. She also reported that the budget discussions for FY2015 were ongoing.

8. 2013-2014 Work Plan

Ms. Hickson reported on activities that support the 2013-2014 Work Plan in the following areas: operations, training, activities, advice, public education and outreach, investigation and enforcement actions, financial disclosure, and legislation. She advised the Board that financial disclosure filing deadline was moving to April 1; pending approval of the legislation enacting the change.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Jabu M. Sengova, Associate Ethics Officer

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Approved January 16, 2014