

**City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Meeting
Minutes of January 16, 2014**

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was called to order by Chair Caroline Johnson Tanner at 6:05 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 and Kate Wasch. Board members Carol Snype Crawford, Shukura Ingram Millender, and Kai Williamson were absent. Staff members Nina R. Hickson, Jabu M. Sengova and Sherry H. Dawson also attended.

MINUTES

1. Ms. Wasch moved to adopt the minutes of the January 16th board meeting which was seconded by Ms. Brown and the Board unanimously adopted the minutes.

OTHER ACTIONS

2. **Request from Dr. Adrienne Bradford, Director of the City of Atlanta Employee Assistance Program, to engage in consulting practice**

Dr. Bradford presented her request to the Board to engage in consulting, education and assessment outside her city job. The position would average 10 hours per month with no referrals from the city as a source of clientele. Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the request which was seconded by Ms. Brown. Ms. Wasch made a friendly amendment to the motion stating that Ms. Bradford would continue to work full-time for the city and not draw from city sources as clientele, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Request from Paul Brown, Director of Concessions Division, to engage in consulting work with the Coleman Research Group**

Mr. Brown presented his request to engage in outside employment to the Board. His outside employment would involve targeted activities related to investment advice and development for institutional investors and private equity firms for approximately five hours a week. Mr. Brown's request for outside employment was approved on a motion by Ms. Wasch, which was seconded by Mr. Adams, and the motion passed unanimously.

ENFORCEMENT ACTION

4. **CO-12-007. In the Matter of Stanley Domengeaux**

The Board conducted a probable cause hearing in Case Number CO-12-007 concerning former city arborist, Stanley Domengeaux. Mr. Domengeaux provided no written response to the probable cause report and was not present at the hearing. Ms. Sengova presented the case that Mr. Domengeaux violated Sections 2-820, 2-819, and 2-811 the Code of Ethics when he sought business from and presented invoices on behalf of his private company, Treepointe LLC, while he was working on city time. Further, he used confidential information acquired while he was performing city inspections to advance his own financial interests. After presenting the case, Ms. Sengova recommended that the Board find probable cause and set the matter down for an enforcement hearing for the May 15th board meeting.

Board Chair Tanner asked whether Mr. Domengeaux had disclosed this private business on his annual financial disclosure statements and the associate ethics officer advised her that he had not. Ms. Tanner recommended that an additional violation of section 2-814 be found based on Mr. Domengeaux's failure to disclose his business interest.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Adams made a motion for a finding of probable cause in the matter of Stanley Domengeaux for violations of code sections 2-820, 2-819, 2-811, as well as violation of 2-814 for his failure to disclose; and setting the matter down for an enforcement hearing at the May board meeting. Ms. Wasch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ETHICS OFFICER'S REPORT

5. Work Plan

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

6. 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. She also reported that the Ethics Office was spending as budgeted for fiscal year 2014 and the budget process for fiscal year 2015 would begin in March.

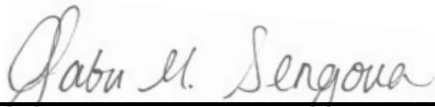
7. Rescheduling of June 2014 Board Retreat

This matter would be moved to the March board meeting for review by the absent board members.

8. Annual Reports

Ms. Hickson reported that the Board of Ethics issued one formal advisory opinion and the Ethics Office wrote 41 advisory emails in 2013. In addition, the staff gave verbal advice to 50 persons and ethics training was provided to a total of 1299 city employees and officials. Ms. Hickson also presented a report on complaints and investigations from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, showing that 14 new cases were opened, 13 cases were closed, and four cases remained open at the end of the year.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.



Jabu M. Sengova, Associate Ethics Officer
Approved March 20, 2014