

**City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Meeting
Minutes of May 21, 2015**

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was called to order by Board Vice-Chair Brent Adams at 6:09 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 55 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Attending the meeting were board members Carol Snype Crawford, Jessica Stern, Kate Wasch, Kai Williamson; and new board member Riah Greathouse. Staff members Nina R. Hickson, Sherry H. Dawson, Carlos R. Santiago and Jabu M. Sengova also attended.

ELECTION OF NEW BOARD CHAIR

1. Ms. Stern moved to nominate Kate Wasch as Board Chair which was seconded by Mr. Adams. Ms. Wasch accepted the nomination of election to Board Chair and the Board unanimously approved. Thereafter, Ms. Wasch presided over the board meeting.

MINUTES

2. Ms. Stern moved to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2015 board meeting which was seconded by Brent Adams. The Board unanimously adopted the minutes.

BOARD OPERATIONS

3. **Request pursuant to Section 2-820(d) - Wendy Heath-Gainer, Psychologist**
Ms. Hickson recommended that the Board approve Ms. Heath-Gainer's request for outside employment which would consist of providing therapy to private clients in the evenings and on weekends. Further, Ms. Heath-Gainer understands that she is not allowed to seek any clients from the City of Atlanta and that the outside work cannot conflict with any of her official work duties. Mr. Adams moved to approve the request which was seconded by Ms. Crawford and the Board unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

4. **Roll of Delinquent Filers**
The Board next considered the Roll of Delinquent Filers that lists 71 individuals which includes persons who have not filed a 2015 City Financial Disclosure Statement and persons who filed after the April 16 grace period without reasonable cause. Ms. Stern moved to adopt the Roll of Delinquent Filers, which was seconded by Mr. Greathouse; and the Board unanimously adopted the motion.
5. **Report to Board on 2015 Filing Season**
Ms. Dawson delivered the May 2015 report to the Board on persons required to file an annual financial disclosure statement, those who complied with the filing requirements, and those who failed to file in 2015 as required by law. Ms. Dawson noted that the percentage of timely filers was 92 percent this year based on a total of 1931 timely filers; lower than last year's 96 percent timely filing rate with 1694 timely filers. Ms. Dawson further stated that this year's rate is

comparable to 2008 based on 1646 required filers with a 92 percent timely filing rate. In 2011 there were 1507 required filers with a 91 percent timely filing rate.

6. **Resolution for Transparent Diamond Award.**

Ms. Stern moves to adopt the resolution for the Transparent Diamond Awards which was seconded by Mr. Adams and unanimously approved by the Board. The Board recognized the following city departments for 100% compliance with the filing requirement: City Auditor's Office, City Solicitor's Office, Department of Corrections, Department of Information Technology, Department of Procurement, Municipal Court of Atlanta, and Public Defender's Office. The Honorable Mention list included departments who filed after the filing deadline but before the grace period ended and those recognized were: City Council, Atlanta Fire and Rescue, Atlanta Police Department, Department of Law, Department of Planning and Community Development, and Department of Watershed Management. These departments would be formally recognized on June 1, 2015 during the City Council meeting.

ETHICS OFFICER'S REPORT

7. **Work Plan**

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

8. **FY15 Budget Report**

Ms. Hickson reported that the Ethics Office was spending as budgeted for the remainder of fiscal year 2015.

9. **FY16 Budget Update**

Ms. Hickson reported that for FY16, the budget has been approved for \$611,000 which includes the conversion of the Investigator/Attorney position from a part-time to a full-time position. The Ethics Office will receive direct allocations from two of the Enterprise Funds which will decrease the amount it receives from the General Fund.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



Jabu M. Sengova, Associate Ethics Officer
Approved July 16, 2015.