

## **City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Retreat Minutes of December 16, 2017**

The winter retreat of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was held at City Hall, 68 Mitchell Street, Suite 1100, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303. Attending the retreat were Kate Wasch, Todd Gray, Gerry Neumark and Jessica Stern. Also attending was Ethics Officer Jabu M. Sengova, and staff members Carlos R. Santiago, Sherry H. Dawson and Janet R. Keene. Sara Henderson of Common Cause facilitated segments of the retreat. Guests participating in different segments of the meeting were Emmet Bondurant and Howard "Tres" Indermark.

Ethics Officer Jabu M. Sengova opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

### **INVEST ATLANTA APPEAL**

Gerry Neumark made a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session with the Board's Counsel Mr. Indermark. The motion was seconded by Todd Gray and unanimously approved by the Board. Discussions during the session included attorney-client privileged communications regarding the October 27, 2017 Appeal by Invest Atlanta, Case # 2017CV297296. At the end of one hour, Todd Gray made a motion to come out of executive session. Ms. Stern seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

At the closing of executive session, Mr. Indermark left the retreat. Emmet Bondurant and Sara Henderson of Common Cause then joined the retreat.

### **CHANGE TO ETHICS BOARD APPOINTMENT PROCESS**

Mr. Bondurant, an authority on legislative processes in Georgia, was invited to attend the Board Retreat to provide guidance to the Board on a recent legislative change to the Board nomination process and a recent court ruling in DeKalb County which relied upon *Rogers v. Medical Association of Georgia, et al.* He provided an historical background of the Board appointment process in Georgia and the City of Atlanta and suggested legal options to the Board and the effect of those choices. He also suggested introducing *Pay to Play* legislation to the City Council due to the pending federal bribery investigation. The Board discussed the implications and methods of how it would introduce potential *Pay to Play* legislation.

### **REVIEW OF ROBERT'S RULES**

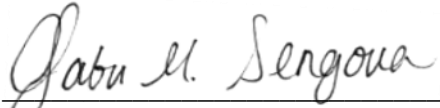
Ms. Henderson presented a review of Robert's Rules to the Ethics Board with the assistance of Ethics Office staff and facilitated a discussion to ensure board members' confidence in formal board meeting protocol.

### **2017/2018 ETHICS OFFICE WORKPLAN**

Ms. Sengova and Mr. Santiago presented the accomplishments of the Ethics Office during 2017 and outlined its goals for 2018. The work plan report covers operations, training, rendering of advice, public education and outreach, investigations and enforcement actions, Integrity Hotline, and legislative efforts. Ms. Sengova and Mr. Santiago reported on key goals for 2018 which included the launch of the new electronic filing system (E-file 3.0) and development of a second phase of the Ethics E-learning course. Ms. Sengova reported that the staff was planning for its annual Lunch and Learn series to be held in the Spring. Last, Ms. Sengova reported that she

planned to reclassify the vacant position of Investigative Manager and establish an Ethics Advisor position.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jabu M. Sengova". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jabu M. Sengova, Ethics Officer  
Approved February 15, 2018