

**City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Meeting
Minutes of November 15, 2018**

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was called to order by Board Vice Chair Jessica Stern at 6:06 p.m. in the City Council Committee Room 1, 55 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Attending the meeting were board members Todd Gray, Nichola Hines, Gerry Neumark and Wesley Tharpe. Ethics Officer Jabu M. Sengova and staff members Carlos R. Santiago, Sherry H. Dawson, Janet R. Keene, Larry Mason and Ibidapo Onabanjo also attended. Board Chair Kate Wasch was absent.

MINUTES

1. Mr. Tharpe moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2018 board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE HEARINGS

2. Documentary Evidence and Sanctions Requested

Mr. Santiago presented Exhibits 1 through 5 as documentary evidence of notices sent to persons notifying them of the requirement to file the City Financial Disclosure Statement, Exhibit 6 as evidence of notice of hearing sent to current employees who are late or non filers, and Exhibit 7 as evidence of subpoena to appear at the November 15 hearing. Dr. Neumark made a motion to approve Exhibits 1 through 7 as evidence of proper notifications of the requirements to file under Section 2-814 and to appear for a hearing. Ms. Hines seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Santiago presented evidence of persons who violated Section 2-814(e) of the Code of Ethics by failing to file the 2018 City Financial Disclosure Statement by the filing deadline without reasonable cause. He requested that the Board issue a written reprimand and impose a fine of \$50 or more in administrative sanctions and require that the fine be paid prior to any reemployment by the City.

3. Filers Appearing before the Board

FD-18-072 In the Matter of Dante Wheeler (late filer)

Current City Employee: filed 11/13/18 Sanction requested: \$250

Mr. Wheeler was present at the meeting. He addressed the Board regarding his requirement to file and further explained that after speaking with Mr. Santiago, he immediately filed his statement. Following a brief discussion, Ms. Hines moved to reduce the sanction for Mr. Wheeler to \$150. Dr. Neumark seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

FD-18-052 In the Matter of Micholous Mclver (late filer)

Current City Employee: filed 10/19/18 Sanction requested: \$250

Mr. Mclver was present at the meeting and addressed the Board. After a brief discussion, Mr. Gray moved to adopt the sanction recommended by Mr. Santiago

of \$250. Dr. Neumark seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

FD-18-026 In the Matter of Tranis Borders (non filer)

Current City Employee

Sanction requested: \$500

Mr. Borders was present at the meeting and addressed the Board. After a brief discussion, Ms. Hines moved to adopt the sanction recommended by Mr. Santiago of \$500. Mr. Tharpe seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board. Ms. Sengova requested that Mr. Borders file his statement. Mr. Borders complied and filed his statement at the board meeting.

FD-18-054 In the Matter of Commodus Morgan (non filer)

Current City Employee

Sanction requested: \$500

Mr. Morgan was present at the meeting and addressed the Board. After a brief discussion, Dr. Neumark moved to adopt the sanction recommended by Mr. Santiago of \$500. Mr. Tharpe seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board. Ms. Sengova requested that Mr. Morgan file his statement. Mr. Morgan complied and filed his statement at the board meeting.

4. Late Filer – Appeal Filed

FD-18-001 In the Matter of Gerald Adair

Current City Employee: filed 4/27/18

Sanction requested: \$50

Mr. Santiago reported that Mr. Adair filed an appeal for the Board's consideration and he provided reasonable cause for filing late. Mr. Santiago recommended that in consideration for Mr. Adair having timely filed his statements in past years, the Board grant Mr. Adair's appeal. Ms. Hines moved to grant Mr. Adair's appeal and waive the fine. Mr. Tharpe seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

FORMAL ADVISORY OPINION

5. Request from Ben Howard, Citizen

Mr. Howard requested that the Board of Ethics issue a Formal Advisory Opinion related to the denial of Public Comment after a Grants Management Presentation. Following a review by Ms. Sengova and a brief discussion, Ms. Sengova recommended to the Board that Mr. Howard's request be denied because it falls outside the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics. Dr. Neumark moved that Mr. Howard's request be denied as recommended by Ms. Sengova. Mr. Gray seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

ETHICS OFFICER'S REPORT

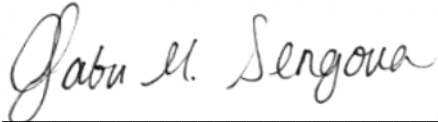
6. Status Report on Activities Performed under the Work Plan

Ms. Sengova reported on activities that support the Ethics Office Work Plan in the following areas: operations, training, advice, public education and outreach, investigations and enforcement actions, and financial disclosure. Ms. Sengova highlighted the Annual Ethics Lunch and Learn, which was well attended by City employees, and the recently published Ethics Newsletter.

7. FY2019 Budget Report

Ms. Sengova reported that the Ethics Office was spending as budgeted for the 2019 fiscal year.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.



Jabu M. Sengova, Ethics Officer
Approved January 17, 2019.