

**City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Retreat
Minutes of December 15, 2018**

The 2018 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 Board Chair Kate Wasch and board members Todd Gray, Nichola Hines, Gerry Neumark, Jessica Stern, and Wesley Tharpe. Ethics Officer Jabu M. Sengova and staff members Carlos R. Santiago, Sherry H. Dawson, Janet R. Keene, Investigator Larry Mason, Ibi Onabanjo and Portia Reeves also attended.

REVIEW OF ELECTRONIC BOARD NOTEBOOK

Mr. Santiago and Ms. Sengova reviewed the Ethics Office's new *Electronic Board Book*, which is a compilation of Ethics Board Rules, Bylaws, Historical Sanctions imposed by the Board and other related reference material; which followed with discussion with the Board.

BOARD OPERATIONS

Revised Legislation and Future Appointments

Ms. Sengova presented an overview of newly adopted legislation, City Ordinance 18-O-1662, applicable to the appointment process for members of the Board of Ethics resulting from the decision in *Delay et al. v. Sutton, Commissioner*. The new legislation requires that future appointments and re-appointments to the Board are made directly by the Mayor and City Council.

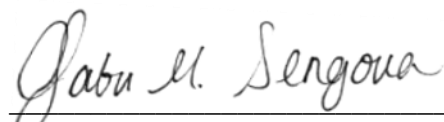
Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) and 2020 Annual Conference

Ms. Sengova presented an overview of COGEL, the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws, and highlighted a recent COGEL conference held in Philadelphia which she and other Ethics Office staff members attended. Ms. Sengova informed the Board that she had recently been elected to the COGEL Steering Committee for a four-year term and that Atlanta will be host to COGEL's 2020 Annual Conference. In preparation for 2020, Ms. Sengova suggested that one member of the Ethics Board attend the 2019 COGEL conference which will be held in Chicago.

PROPOSED FORMAL ADVISORY OPINION ON SPOUSES/DOMESTIC PARTNERS DOING BUSINESS WITH THE CITY

Ms. Onabanjo presented a proposed formal advisory opinion arising from an increase of city officials' and employees' spouses and domestic partners doing or seeking to do business with the City which can create a potential conflict of interest or an appearance of impropriety. Ms. Onabanjo stressed the importance of city officials' and employees' awareness of potential conflicts of interest and appearances that might cause the public to question whether the official or employee is acting in his or her own interests or in the best interest of the City. The Board agreed that a formal advisory opinion issued on this topic that clearly defines family relationships is timely and necessary.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned.



Jabu M. Sengova, Ethics Officer

Approved January 17, 2019