

**City of Atlanta Board of Ethics and Independent Compliance
Minutes of January 16, 2020 Board Meeting**

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics and Independent Compliance was called to order by Board Chair-Elect Nichola Hines at 6:01 p.m. in Committee Room 1, 55 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Attending the meeting were board members Chris Gilmore, Todd Gray, Matt Grosvenor, Lisa Liang, Gerry Neumark and Wesley Tharpe. Ethics Officer Jabu M. Sengova and staff members Sherry H. Dawson, Janet Keene, Ibdapo Onabanjo, and Carlos R. Santiago also attended.

MINUTES

1. Ms. Liang moved to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2019 board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gilmore and unanimously approved by the Board.
2. Ms. Liang moved to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2019 board retreat. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.

BOARD OPERATIONS

3. Election of Chair of the Board

Dr. Neumark moved to nominate Nichola Hines as the new Chair which was seconded by Mr. Gray. Ms. Hines accepted the nomination of election to Board Chair and the Board unanimously approved.

4. Election of Vice-Chair of the Board

Ms. Hines moved to nominate Todd Gray as the new Vice-Chair which was seconded by Mr. Gilmore. Mr. Gray accepted the nomination of election to Board Vice-Chair and the Board unanimously approved.

ETHICS OFFICER'S REPORT

5. 2019 Annual Ethics Report

Ms. Onabanjo presented the 2019 Ethics Office Annual Report. She reported on the highlights in the following areas: Advice, Financial Disclosure, Investigations and Enforcement, Operations including the addition of staff and board members, Public Education and Outreach, Training, and the Integrity Line. Ms. Onabanjo stated that the Report on Advice includes trends for the past three years and that the top two subjects for advice were Gifts and Gratuities and Conflicts of Interest.

6. 2018 Financial Disclosure Audit Report

Ms. Keene presented the 2018 Financial Disclosure Audit Report. She outlined the two most common exceptions observed during the 2018 Financial Disclosure Audit and reported on the proposed methods to reduce the numbers of those occurrences in future years.

7. Legislative Updates and Integrity Line Report

Mr. Santiago presented legislative changes that occurred in 2019 amending the City's Standards of Conduct by renaming the Board of Ethics to the Board of Ethics and Independent Compliance and creating the position of Independent Compliance Officer. He further reported that this legislation expanded the

jurisdiction of the Board to include potential fraud, waste and abuse. Mr. Santiago reported that the Integrity Line experienced record reporting volume in 2019 with a 42% increase from the call volume in 2018.

8. 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, with emphasis on the new employee training; advice; public education and outreach; investigation and enforcement actions; and financial disclosure with emphasis on the new electronic filing system.

9. FY20 Budget Report

Ms. Sengova reported that the Ethics Office was spending as budgeted for fiscal year 2020.

BOARD OPERATIONS


10. 2020 Board Meeting Schedule

Ms. Sengova presented the proposed dates for the 2020 Board of Ethics and Independent Compliance Meetings and Retreats. Mr. Tharpe made a motion to accept the 2020 Board Meeting Schedule as proposed. Ms. Liang seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

11. Executive Session

At 6:30 p.m. Ms. Liang moved to recess into Executive Session to discuss a possible appeal in the Matter of Jimmie A. Beard. Dr. Neumark seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board. At 6:59 p.m. Mr. Gilmore made a motion for the Board Members to come out of Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gray and unanimously approved by the Board. After the Executive Session adjourned, Ms. Hines executed an affidavit stating the topic discussed.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



Jabu M. Sengova, Ethics Officer
Approved February 27, 2020

EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT

CITY OF ATLANTA
BOARD OF ETHICS AND INDEPENDENT COMPLIANCE
AFFIDAVIT OF CHAIRPERSON-ELECT NICHOLA HINES

Nichola Hines, Chairperson-elect of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics and Independent Compliance, states under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of her knowledge and belief:

1.

The City of Atlanta Board of Ethics and Independent Compliance met in a duly advertised meeting on January 16, 2020.

2.

During such meeting, the Board voted to go into executive session.

3.

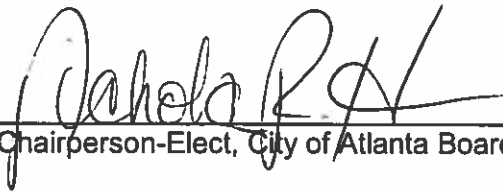
The executive session was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

4.

The subject matter of the executive session portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law:


In regards to a possible appeal of the
order James Beard

This 16th day of January, 2020.



Chairperson-Elect, City of Atlanta Board of Ethics and Independent Compliance

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16th day of January, 2020.


_____, Notary Public

SHERRY HALSEY DAWSON
NOTARY PUBLIC
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
MY COMM: EXPIRES APRIL 30, 2020

My commission expires: April 30, 2020