

**City of Atlanta Governing Board of the Office of the Inspector General
Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2020**

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Governing Board of the Office of the Inspector General was called to order by Board Chair Nichola Hines at 6:00 p.m. remotely via the Zoom Platform. Attending the meeting were board members Todd Gray, Chris Gilmore, Vic Hartman, Lisa Liang, Gerry Neumark, and Wesley Tharpe. Board member Matt Grosvenor was absent. Ethics Officer Jabu M. Sengova and staff members, Carlos Santiago, Sherry H. Dawson, Janet Keene, Ariyan Marshall, Larry Mason, Ibi Onabanjo and Portia Reeves also attended.

MINUTES

1. Dr. Neumark moved to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2020 board meeting. Mr. Tharpe seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

ENFORCEMENT MATTERS - CITY FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

2. **In the Matter of Steven Bymes FD-20-002**
Current City Employee: filed 8/23/2020 Sanction requested: \$250

Mr. Santiago presented the Administrative Decision in the case of Mr. Bymes, finding that he was a late filer and in violation of Section 2-814 of the Atlanta Code of Ethics. Mr. Bymes was present at the meeting and addressed the Board. Mr. Bymes stated that he filed an appeal when he received an invoice for payment from the Ethics Division. He stated that he recently retired and timely filed during his years of employment with the City. Mr. Bymes stated that he had difficulties filing the form electronically and requested a waiver of the fine. Following a lengthy discussion, Ms. Liang made a motion to reverse the administrative decision and Mr. Gilmore seconded the motion. Mr. Hartman proposed that a letter of reprimand be issued in place of a fine as Mr. Bymes had timely filed his financial disclosure statement in past years. Ms. Liang further proposed that in place of a letter of reprimand that the Board issue a verbal reprimand. After further discussion, Mr. Gilmore moved for a friendly amendment to Ms. Liang's motion to administer a verbal reprimand in addition to reversing the decision of the Ethics Division. Mr. Gray seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

3. **In the Matter of John Miller FD-20-037**
Current City Employee: filed 8/19/2020 Sanction requested: \$250

Mr. Santiago presented the Administrative Decision in the case of Mr. Miller, finding that he was a late filer and in violation of Section 2-814 of the Atlanta Code of Ethics. Mr. Miller was present at the meeting and addressed the Board. Mr. Miller stated that in prior years he timely filed the City Financial Disclosure Statement upon receiving the notice. Mr. Miller stated that this year he believed that he had filed his statement immediately upon receiving the notice. He asserted that he was not aware of his delinquency status until he received the invoice in the mail. Mr. Miller stated that he had recently moved to a different county in Georgia and that he may have missed his mail due to his change of

address. Mr. Gilmore made a motion to reverse the decision of the Ethics Division and Mr. Tharpe seconded the motion. After a brief discussion during which Mr. Gilmore acknowledged similarities between the instant case and the previous case heard by the Board, Mr. Gilmore moved for a friendly amendment to his motion to administer an oral reprimand in addition to reversing the decision of the Ethics Division. Dr. Neumark seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

4. In the Matter of Derek Smith FD-20-048

Current City Employee: filed 7/7/2020 Sanction requested: \$250

Mr. Santiago presented the Administrative Decision in the case of Mr. Smith, finding that he was a late filer and in violation of Section 2-814 of the City of Atlanta's Code of Ethics. Mr. Smith was not present for the hearing. Ms. Liang moved to affirm in part the decision of the Ethics Division to administer a fine, however, to reduce the assessed fine. The motion was not seconded and failed to carry. Dr. Neumark then moved to affirm the decision of the Ethics Division and Mr. Tharpe seconded the motion. After a discussion, the Board approved the motion with five in favor and one opposed.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Jabu M. Sengova, Ethics Officer
Approved November 19, 2020