

**BEFORE THE CITY OF ATLANTA
BOARD OF ETHICS**

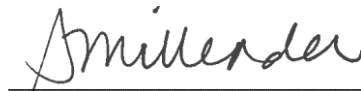
In the Matter of:)	
)	
Michael Julian Bond)	Case No. CO-14-018
)	
Respondent)	
)	

DECISION AND ORDER

This matter came before the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics for a decision on January 15, 2015, prior to a probable cause determination. Having considered the attached settlement agreement, the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics approves the agreement and orders that Respondent Michael Julian Bond pay a civil penalty of \$3,900 and to reimburse the City of Atlanta \$11,320.81 from personal funds for the improper use of city funds for a total penalty of \$15,220.81; for his violations of sections 2-811, 2-816 and 2-817 of the City's Code of Ethics.

So ordered this 28th day of January, 2015.

For the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics



Shukura Ingram Millender
Chair, Board of Ethics

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In the Matter of:)	
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Michael Julian Bond)	Case No. CO-14-018
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Respondent)	
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SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This settlement agreement is made between Nina R. Hickson, the Ethics Officer of the City of Atlanta, and Michael Julian Bond, a city elected official charged with violating the City's Code of Ethics.

The parties agree and consent to the following terms to resolve the pending case prior to a probable cause determination by the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics. The Board of Ethics is responsible for administering, implementing, and enforcing the Standards of Conduct contained in the Atlanta Municipal Code.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Michael Julian Bond is an Atlanta City Council Member serving in the Post 1-At Large District. He was elected to this position in 2009 and was reelected in 2013.
2. Mr. Bond, as an elected member of the Atlanta City Council, is subject to the provisions of the Atlanta Standards of Conduct, also known as the Atlanta Code of Ethics, Section 2-801 et seq.
3. In September of 2010, Mr. Bond requested and received an advance of \$3007.62 in order to attend the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., which was held from September 15 through September 18, 2010.
4. Mr. Bond did not attend the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Conference on that date and has not repaid the advance he received. Mr. Bond made payment arrangements with the city's Department of Finance in September of 2014 to repay this advance through payroll deduction. The full amount was paid on January 10, 2015.
5. On April 4, 2012, Mr. Bond attended a benefit concert for WCLK featuring Chaka Khan at the Cobb Energy Centre. During the concert, Mr. Bond presented Ms. Khan with a proclamation from him in his capacity as a City Councilperson.
6. Prior to the concert, Mr. Bond, through his city council office, requested and received four tickets for admission to the concert as well as to the VIP Reception. The three remaining tickets were used by persons other than him.
7. From September 2, 2011 through September 5, 2011 Dragon*Con was held in Atlanta, Georgia. Council Member Bond attended the 2010 Dragon*Con where he presented a proclamation and requested one ticket for a member of this family.

8. On September 3, 2011, Mr. Bond presented a proclamation from the City in his capacity as a City Councilmember at the Dragon*Con annual awards banquet.
9. In conjunction with his participation in this banquet in 2011, Mr. Bond requested and received complimentary admissions to this event as well as VIP badges for six members of his family.
10. From August 31, 2012 through September 2, 2012, Dragon*Con was held in Atlanta, Georgia.
11. During the Awards Banquet, Mr. Bond presented proclamations to the organizers of Dragon*Con and special guests Richard Dean Anderson and John Barrowman. He also presented proclamations to Adam West and Burt Ward during the Saturday panel. These proclamations were presented by Mr. Bond in his capacity as a City Councilmember.
12. In conjunction with Dragon*Con 2012 Mr. Bond requested and received a complimentary VIP pass for himself as well as eight complimentary passes for his family members.
13. From August 30, 2013 through September 2, 2013 Dragon*Con 2013 was held in Atlanta.
14. On August 31, 2013, Mr. Bond presented a proclamation to the organizers of Dragon*Con 2013 during the annual awards banquet. He presented this proclamation in his capacity as a City Councilmember.
15. In conjunction with Dragon*Con 2013, Mr. Bond requested and received a complimentary VIP pass for himself as well as 11 complimentary passes for members of his family.
16. From August 29, 2014 through September 1, 2014, Dragon*Con 2014 was held in Atlanta.
17. During Dragon*Con 2014, Mr. Bond presented a proclamation to Jeri Ryan at the request of the organizers of Dragon*Con. Mr. Bond presented this in his capacity as a City Councilmember.
18. In conjunction with Dragon*Con 2014, Mr. Bond requested and received a complimentary VIP pass for himself as well as 10 members of his family and one member of his staff.
19. Between September 20, 2013 and October 25, 2013, Mr. Bond received 37 hours private tutoring from 21stEd LLC.
20. Mr. Bond admits that at least one-half of those hours were dedicated to preparing him for the Graduate Record Exam which he was taking in an effort to get admitted to a Master's Degree program. He contends that the other half was used to acquaint him with municipal finance concepts that he would use in his role on the General Employees Pension Fund Board.
21. Mr. Bond utilized \$2590 from city funds for this tutoring.

22. On March 3, 2014, the Atlanta Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in conjunction with its "Delta Day at the Capitol" event held a breakfast utilizing City Council Chambers. Mr. Bond used city funds to pay \$2130 for the catering for this event and allowed the City Council Chambers, which ordinarily costs \$1500, to be used at no cost by the Sorority. The total cost of the event was \$3650.
23. Between June 5, 2014 and June 8, 2014, the Frederick Douglass High School Class of 1984 held a class reunion. In conjunction with this reunion, Mr. Bond utilized his city council staff to engage in several activities related to preparing for this event.
24. From the end of 2013 until the reunion in June of 2014, Mr. Bond's staff transferred films of Mr. Bond's City Council appearances to VHS and his personal album collection from vinyl to digital form as well as photographs to digital form.
25. The transfer of these photos and music was for the purpose of creating a CD/DVD for the reunion.
26. Mr. Bond used city funds to pay \$900.88 for the production of these CD/DVDs for the Reunion.
27. Mr. Bond used city funds to pay \$827.55 for the production of pins for the Reunion.
28. From July 16, 2014 through July 20, 2014 Mr. Bond traveled to Washington, D.C. He received an advance of \$2410.02 in city funds for this trip.
29. Although Mr. Bond was scheduled to have a meeting on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 with D.C. Council Member Vincent Orange he missed the meeting because he arrived in DC later that day.
30. Mr. Bond indicates that he walked historic trails in Washington D.C. on Thursday, July 17, 2014 during the day and attended an activity with the Bond Family Reunion from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm that day.
31. On July 18, 2014, Mr. Bond met with Steven Shulman, Executive Director of Cultural Tourism at 2 pm to tour the area around the Willard Hotel. At 5 pm that day he met with former DC Councilmember Frank Smith, Executive Director of the African American Civil War Museum with whom he toured the facility and the surrounding area until 6:30 pm. Later that evening, at 7 pm, Mr. Bond attended a public performance on the Capitol Steps as a part of the activities for The Bond Family Reunion.
32. On July 19, 2014 Mr. Bond picked up his reunion t-shirt and attended a lecture at the Smithsonian Institution between 10 am and 10:30 am and attended his family's reunion dinner between 6 pm and 8 pm that evening. He asserts that he spent the remaining hours viewing federally controlled historic sites.
33. Mr. Bond returned to Atlanta on Sunday, July 20, 2014.
34. From August 14 – 17, 2014, Mr. Bond traveled to Boston and attended the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government Reunion. He received a travel advance of \$1368.75 in city funds for this trip.

35. While in Boston, he did not attend any of the social or recreational events. However, he did spend time walking trails for research related to the African American Heritage trail project he has supported for the City of Atlanta.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

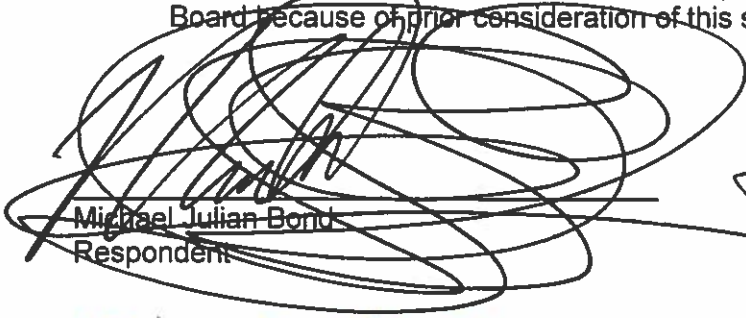
1. Mr. Bond is a city official subject to the Atlanta Standards of Conduct, also known as the Atlanta Ethics Code, found in Sections 2-801 – 2-824 of the Atlanta Code of Ordinances.
2. Section 2-811 prohibits city employees and officials from using or permitting the use of city property or resources for the private advantage of that official, employee or any other person or entity unless it is done under the same circumstances under which other members of the public can use the property or resources.
3. Section 2-816 (b) prohibits city officials and employees from accepting any ticket of admission, or other evidence of a right of entry to any entertainment event as a “gift or for a value less than the price printed on the ticket, which would not be offered or given to such official or employee if such person were not an official or employee.”
4. Section 2-817 prohibits city officials or employees from accepting any gratuity as defined by the Ethics Code.
5. Mr. Bond violated Section 2-811 of the Ethics Code when he accepted an advance of city funds for the trip to the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Conference in 2010 and did not return the advance when he did not attend this conference.
6. Mr. Bond violated Section 2-816 of the Ethics Code when he requested and received three tickets for admission to the Chaka Khan concert held on April 4, 2012 at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre on behalf of someone other than himself.
7. Mr. Bond violated Section 2-816 of the Ethics Code when he sought and received six VIP badges for admission to Dragon*Con 2011 on behalf of members of his family.
8. Mr. Bond violated Section 2-816 of the Ethics Code when he sought and received eight VIP badges for admission to Dragon*Con 2012 on behalf of members of his family.
9. Mr. Bond violated Section 2-816 of the Ethics Code when he sought and received eleven VIP badges for members of his family for Dragon*Con 2013.
10. Mr. Bond violated Section 2-816 of the Ethics Code when he sought and received VIP badges for admission to Dragon*Con 2014 for ten members of his family and one member of his staff.
11. Mr. Bond violated Section 2-811 of the Ethics Code when he used city funds to pay for tutorial services which were for his personal benefit in 2013.
12. Mr. Bond violated Section 2-811 of the Ethics Code when he used city funds to sponsor an event for the Atlanta Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in March of 2014. Additionally, in allowing the Sorority to use the City Council Chambers at no cost for this event, Mr. Bond violated Section 2-811 of the Ethics Code.

13. Mr. Bond violated Section 2-811 of the Ethics Code when he used city funds, including the use of city staff time to pay for the production of CD/DVDs and pins for the Frederick Douglass High School Class of 1984 reunion during 2013 and 2014.
14. Mr. Bond violated Section 2-811 when he used city funds to pay for a trip to Washington, DC during which he spent time at his family reunion in addition to conducting city business.
15. Mr. Bond violated Section 2-811 when he used city funds to attend a reunion of the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government in August of 2014.

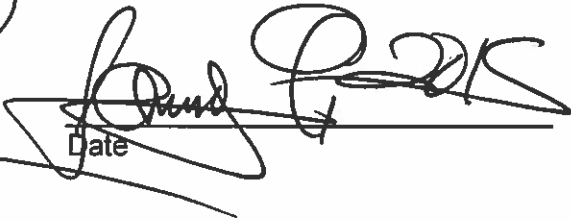
AGREEMENT

1. Mr. Bond acknowledges that he violated the city's ethical standards as outlined in paragraphs 2 – 15 in the Conclusions of Law section of this document.
2. Mr. Bond agrees to pay the City of Atlanta a civil penalty of \$3900 from personal funds. This figure is based on a fine of \$400 for each of the six times that tickets or admissions were requested and \$250 for each of the six violations of the Ethics Code for the improper use of city funds.
3. Mr. Bond has also agreed to pay \$11,320.81 in reimbursement for the advance for the 2010 Congressional Black Caucus trip, reimbursement for the Delta Sigma Theta reception, for the production of the high school reunion CD/DVDs and pins, one-half the cost of the Washington, DC trip in July of 2014, one-half the cost of the Harvard trip in August 2014 and one-half of the cost of the tutoring.
4. Mr. Bond has agreed to accept responsibility for these ethics code violations and to refrain from making any public statements, orally or in writing, which contradict his admission of liability.
5. Mr. Bond agrees to abide by the provisions of the Ethics Code which protect individuals who have cooperated with an ethics investigation and to refrain from taking any personnel actions against any city employees or members of his staff who were interviewed or provided information in conjunction with this investigation.
6. Mr. Bond further agrees to reconcile expense reimbursements no later than 30 days after receipt of the reimbursement.
7. The parties agree to enter into this settlement agreement to resolve all factual and legal issues raised in this matter and to reach a final disposition without the necessity of an evidentiary hearing before the Ethics Board to determine Mr. Bond's liability.
8. Mr. Bond understands and voluntarily waives all procedural rights under the Atlanta Code of Ordinances, including the determination of probable cause, and the right to personally appear before the Ethics Board, subpoena witnesses to testify, confront and cross-examine all witnesses and have the Ethics Board hear the matter at any enforcement hearing.

9. Mr. Bond acknowledges that this agreement is not binding on any other law enforcement or governmental agency and does not preclude the Board of Ethics from cooperating with or assisting any other law enforcement or government agency on this or any other related matter.
10. The Ethics Officer will submit this settlement agreement for consideration by the Ethics Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting, and the Board must enter an order approving the agreement before it becomes the final decision and order in the case.
11. The parties agree that this agreement shall become null and void in the event that the Ethics Board refuses to accept it. Mr. Bond further agrees that no member of the Ethics Board or its staff shall be disqualified from participating in any hearing before the Ethics Board because of prior consideration of this settlement agreement.



Michael Julian Bond
Respondent



Date

Nina R. Hickson
Nina R. Hickson
Ethics Officer

9 Jan 2015
Date