City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Meeting Minutes of September 27, 2007

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was called to order by Secretary Jacquee Minor at 6:05 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 55 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Attending the meeting were board members Cathy Daniels, MaryAnne Gaunt, John Lewis, and Jacquee Minor; Larry Levin arrived during the hearing in CO-07-018. Also present were staff members Ginny Looney, Claudia Janka, and Nasceas Timms. Board members Susan Housen and Kenyatta Mitchell were absent.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. Election of Officers

The board elected John Lewis, Jr., as the new chairman. The motion to nominate Mr. Lewis was made by Ms. Minor with a second by Ms. Gaunt and adopted unanimously. The board also unanimously elected Kenyatta Mitchell as vice chairman on a motion made by Ms. Minor and second by Ms. Gaunt.

MINUTES

2. Approval of Minutes

The board approved the minutes of the August 23, 2007 meeting on a motion by Ms. Minor and a second by Ms. Gaunt.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE HEARINGS

3. 07FD007. In the Matter of Kevin Holloway.

Ms. Looney presented the evidence in the case against Kevin Holloway for his failure to file his 2007 City Financial Disclosure Statement. Mr. Holloway attended and argued his defense. Ms. Looney recommended that the board find Mr. Holloway in violation of section 2-814 for his failure to file by March 1 without reasonable cause and impose a \$500 fine, and further find that he intentionally violated the code by failing to follow the board's order to comply with the code. Ms. Gaunt made a motion to accept Ms. Looney's recommendations. Ms. Minor seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATIONS

4. CO-07-018. In the Matter of Kevin Holloway.

At the probable cause hearing, Ms. Looney presented evidence that Mr. Holloway, a former employee, had violated the city's post-employment rule by appearing before the City as an applicant in subdivision applications that he reviewed as a city planner, appearing before his former agency to file eight new applications, and attempting to file an application after being served with a cease and desist order from the board. Mr. Holloway was in attendance and argued his defense. Ms. Looney recommended that the board find probable cause to believe Mr. Holloway had violated section 2-810 of the Code of Ethics and set the matter down for an enforcement hearing in October. Ms. Minor moved to accept the ethics officer's recommendations. Ms. Gaunt seconded the motion,

and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Lewis advised Mr. Holloway that he should not appear and file new applications before his former department and that the current cease and desist order remains in effect through the enforcement hearing before the board.

5. CO-07-019. In the Matter of Welcome Harris, Vera Bowser, Melvin Hendricks, and Anthony McCommons.

Dr. Levin moved to approve the recommendation of the ethics officer to dismiss the complaint in CO-07-019 concerning use of take-home vehicles for lack of probable cause. Ms. Gaunt seconded the motion, and the board adopted it unanimously.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS

6. CO-07-007. In the Matter of Greg Pridgeon.

Ms. Daniels made a motion to approve the settlement agreement between the ethics officer and city employee Greg Pridgeon concerning the use of city credit cards. Ms. Minor seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ENFORCEMENT PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

7. Report on Complaints and Investigations

Ms. Looney presented a report on complaints and investigations from August 15, 2007 until September 25, 2007.

8. Proposed Revisions to Board Rules

The Board decided to postpone consideration of proposed revisions to the board's rules on financial disclosure, complaints, investigations, and hearings.

FORMAL ADVISORY OPINIONS

9. Request from Mayor Shirley Franklin on Prohibited Sources and Expense Reimbursements

Following a briefing from Ms. Looney, the Board requested additional information on a request from Mayor Shirley Franklin for a formal advisory opinion on prohibited sources and expense reimbursements. Board members asked Ms. Looney to provide copies of prior board opinions and a brief description of the 21 organizations listed in the request.

10. Request from Police Chief Richard Pennington on Outside Employment

The Board postponed consideration of a request from Chief Richard Pennington for a formal advisory opinion on outside employment of city employees with a national airline.

Ginny Looney, Ethics Officer Approved October 25, 2007