

City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2007

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was called to order by John Lewis Jr. at 6:05 p.m. in City Council Committee Room 2, 55 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Attending the meeting were board members Cathy Daniels, MaryAnne Gaunt, Susan Housen, Jacquee Minor, and Lawrence Levin. Also present were staff members Ginny Looney and Nasceas Timms. Board member Kenyatta Mitchell was absent.

MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Gaunt recommended that the minutes be amended to add the phrase "off-duty" before police officers in item seven. The board approved the minutes of the October 25, 2007, meeting, as amended, on a motion by Ms. Daniels and a second by Ms. Gaunt.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS

2. CO-07-007. In the Matter of Lynnette Young.

Ms. Housen made a motion to accept the ethics officer's recommendation and approve the settlement agreement between the ethics officer and former city employee Lynnette Young. Dr. Levin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FORMAL ADVISORY OPINIONS

- 3.** Following a discussion on proposed Formal Advisory Opinion 2007-2, Ms. Housen moved, with a second by Ms. Gaunt, that the board approve the opinion as drafted. The opinion concludes that city officials and employees must disclose their travel and other reasonable hosting expenses received from any source other than the City of Atlanta by filing the online Expense Reimbursement Report. The rule becomes effective on December 1, 2007. The board approved the motion unanimously.
- 4.** The board next considered Formal Advisory Opinion 2007-3 on outside employment of city police officers by a national airline. The opinion concludes that the Code of Ethics does not prohibit city employees from engaging in outside employment with a national airline that is a prohibited source when they work in a job that is unrelated to their official duties with the City of Atlanta and they are paid the same salary and benefits as airline employees in comparable positions. Ms. Gaunt made a motion to adopt the proposed opinion as amended, Ms. Minor seconded the motion, and the motion was adopted unanimously.
- 5.** In response to a request from Mayor Shirley Franklin, board members discussed the meaning of "prohibited sources" as defined in section 2-801. They reached a tentative decision that "a registered lobbyist in accordance with state law" means any lobbyist registered with the State Ethics Commission, whether registered as a state

or local lobbyist. The board requested that Ms. Looney draft a formal advisory opinion for it to consider at its next meeting.

6. The board next considered a proposal to permit gifts of travel from prohibited sources when the travel is made in an official capacity on city-related business. Board members requested that Ms. Looney draft a proposed formal advisory opinion for its consideration.

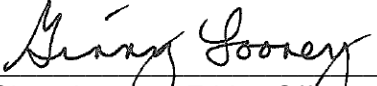
FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

7. The ethics officer recommended that there be no changes in the questions, answers, or instructions in the annual financial disclosure form or process and that the board continue to grant senior citizens an exemption from the electronic filing requirement. Ms. Minor moved to approve the 2008 Financial Disclosure Statement with a second by Ms. Gaunt. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD RULES

8. The board next discussed proposed revisions in the board rules on complaints, investigations, hearings, and financial disclosure. Dr. Levin made a motion to approve the proposed rules and the motion was seconded by Ms. Minor. The board approved the motion unanimously.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Ginny Looney, Ethics Officer
Approved January 24, 2008