

**City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Meeting  
Minutes of February 19, 2009**

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was called to order by MaryAnne Gaunt at 6:20 p.m. in City Council Committee Room 2, 55 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30303. Attending the meeting were board members Carol Snype Crawford, Charles B. Crawford Jr., Cathy Daniels, Caroline Tanner, and staff members Ginny Looney and Jabu Sengova. Board members John Lewis Jr., and Charmaine Ward were absent.

**MINUTES**

1. The Board approved the minutes of the January 15, 2009 meeting on a motion by Ms. Daniels and a second by Mr. Crawford.

**PROBABLE CAUSE REPORTS**

2. **CO-07-022. In the Matter of Ivory Lee Young, Jr.**  
Following Ms. Sengova's recommendation to dismiss for lack of probable cause, Mr. Crawford moved to dismiss the complaint against Council member Young concerning the waiver of rental fees for a private reception held in the City Hall Atrium. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion, and the Board adopted it unanimously.
3. **CO-07-027. In the Matter of Hubert Owens**  
Ms. Sengova recommended that the Board dismiss for lack of probable cause the complaint against city employee Hubert Owens concerning the waiver of rental fees for events for two employees. Ms. Tanner moved to accept the recommendation that the complaint be dismissed, with a second by Mr. Crawford, and the Board adopted it unanimously.

**FORMAL ADVISORY OPINION**

4. The Board considered Council member Ceasar Mitchell's request for a formal advisory opinion addressing under what conditions city officials may use city council expense accounts to engage the services of an immediate family member's company. The Board requested that Ms. Looney draft a proposed opinion concluding that city officials or employees cannot use city funds to engage the services of an immediate family member under any circumstances.

**OTHER ACTIONS**

5. The Board next considered requests for conflict-of-interest waivers from Bruce Gunter and Wendy Green, two board members of the Beltline Affordable Housing Advisory Board. The waivers would allow their organizations and them to apply for funds from the Beltline Affordable Housing Trust Fund while serving on the board and for one year after they leave the board. Following a discussion, Ms. Tanner moved to postpone consideration of the requests in order to get more information, Ms. Daniels seconded the motion, and the Board adopted it unanimously.

6. Ms. Daniels moved to approve the request of Chief Information Officer Dan Smith for permission to teach as an adjunct professor at Kennesaw State University. Mr. Crawford seconded the motion, which the Board approved unanimously.

#### **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

7. **Report on Electronic Disclosure System**

Ms. Looney reported that 86 percent of persons filed by the February 17, 2009, filing deadline and recommended that the board extend the deadline for the filing grace period. Ms. Crawford moved to extend the grace period until March 31 due to technical difficulties with the Electronic Disclosure System, which was seconded by Ms. Tanner, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

#### **BOARD OPERATIONS**

8. **Bylaws**

The Board unanimously adopted the proposed bylaws, with a motion by Mr. Crawford and a second by Ms. Tanner.

9. **Code of Conduct**

The Board postponed consideration of the proposed Code of Conduct until the next meeting.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.



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Jabu M. Sengova, Associate Ethics Officer  
Approved March 19, 2009