

**City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Meeting
Minutes of July 16, 2009**

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was called to order by Chair John Lewis, Jr. at 6:08 pm in the City Council Committee Room 2, 55 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Attending the meeting were board members Carol Snype Crawford; Charles B. Crawford, Jr.; Cathy Daniels; MaryAnne Gaunt; Caroline Tanner; and Charmaine Ward. Associate Ethics Officer Jabu Sengova also attended; Ethics Officer Ginny Looney was absent.

MINUTES

1. The Board approved the minutes of the May 21, 2009 board meeting on a motion by Mr. Crawford and a second by Ms. Daniels, subject to an amendment to reflect that there was a discussion concerning the reappointment of the ethics officer, and that board members agreed to attend the next Committee on Council meeting. Ms. Gaunt also made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2009 board retreat with a second by Mr. Crawford, and the Board approved them unanimously.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE CASES

2. **09FD002. In the Matter of Eric Hawkins**
Following evidence presented by Ms. Sengova, Ms. Gaunt made a motion to approve the recommendation of the associate ethics officer to find that Mr. Hawkins violated section 2-814(e) of the Code of Ethics by failing to file the financial disclosure statement by the filing deadline without reasonable cause and impose an administrative sanction of \$500. Ms. Ward seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. **09FD005. In the Matter of Sherman Reneau**
Following evidence presented by Ms. Sengova, Ms. Gaunt made a motion to approve the recommendation of the associate ethics officer to find that Mr. Reneau violated section 2-814(e) of the Code of Ethics by failing to file the financial disclosure statement by the filing deadline without reasonable cause and impose an administrative sanction of \$500. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
4. **09FD006. In the Matter of Kenneth Tittle**
Following evidence presented by Ms. Sengova, Ms. Gaunt made a motion to approve the recommendation of the associate ethics officer to find that Mr. Tittle violated section 2-814(e) of the Code of Ethics by failing to file the financial disclosure statement by the filing deadline without reasonable cause and impose an administrative sanction of \$500. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Following a further discussion concerning the three cases, Ms. Ward moved to amend the motions and require each individual to appear before the Board to receive a public reprimand. Ms. Gaunt accepted the friendly amendment, and the Board voted in favor of the recommendation of the associate ethics officer as amended in the Hawkins, Reneau, and Tittle cases.

5. 09FD003. In the Matter of Carlton Jinks

Following evidence presented by Ms. Sengova, Ms. Gaunt made a motion to accept the findings and recommendation of the associate ethics officer that Mr. Jinks violated section 2-814 of the Code of Ethics by failing to timely file the 2009 City Financial Disclosure Statement without reasonable cause and impose a \$200 penalty for filing after May 15 and before June 1. Ms. Ward seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved the motion.

6. Delinquent Filers-former city employees

Regarding the 27 former city employees who are delinquent, Ms. Sengova recommended that the former employees be named to the Roll of Delinquent Filers, the Board impose a fine, issue a letter of reprimand, and send a letter to their department and the Department of Human Resources recommending that they be considered ineligible for rehiring for one year and must comply with the financial disclosure law before being considered for another job. Ms. Daniels moved to adopt the recommendations of the associate ethics officer, Ms. Gaunt seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

ETHICS OFFICER REAPPOINTMENT

7. The Board next discussed the recent reappointment of Ethics Officer Ginny Looney, the City Council's vote to confirm for a four-year term of office rather than the six-year term set by the Board, and a legal opinion from the Department of Law concluding that the City Council had the authority to amend the term of office under its broad legislative powers. Ms. Ward recommended that the Board document its concerns in a letter to Acting City Attorney Roger Bhandari. Ms. Daniels made a motion to adopt Ms. Ward's recommendation to send a letter to Mr. Bhandari with a copy to the Mayor and City Council President. Ms. Ward seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.



Jabu M. Sengova, Associate Ethics Officer
Approved September 17, 2009