

**City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Meeting
Minutes of October 18, 2012**

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was called to order by Chair Caroline Johnson Tanner at 6:11 p.m. in the City Council Committee Room 2, 55 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Attending the meeting were board members Brent Adams, Carol Snype Crawford, MaryAnne Gaunt, Shukura Ingram Millender, and Kate Wasch. Staff members Nina R. Hickson, Jabu M. Sengova, and Sherry H. Dawson also attended.

MINUTES

1. Ms. Millender moved to approve the minutes of the September 20th meeting which was seconded by Ms. Wasch. Mr. Adams then moved to amend the minutes to include the appearance of Ben Howard and discussion that followed, and his motion was seconded by Ms. Wasch. The Board unanimously approved the minutes with the amended motion.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

2. **Consent Order 12-FD-012. In the Matter of Ron McKitrick**
Ms. Sengova presented a consent order recommending that the Board assess a fine of \$100 and suspend the balance of the \$500 fine. Ms. Wasch made a motion to accept the consent order, which was seconded by Ms. Crawford, and it passed unanimously.
3. **Vacate Final Order 12-FD-003. In the Matter of Rulhiere Cherry**
Ms. Millender moved to accept Ms. Sengova's recommendation that the final order and public reprimand be vacated in this case because the filer was deceased as of March 2011. Ms. Sengova reported that the Ethics Office was only notified that the filer was deceased shortly after the September board meeting and verified this information with the Department of Human Resources. After a discussion on the circumstances concerning this matter, Mr. Adams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ETHICS OFFICER'S REPORT

4. **FY13 Budget Report**
Ms. Hickson presented the approved FY13 Budget which allocates \$285,799 in personnel expenses and \$65,942 in operating expenses for a total budget of \$351,741. She also reported that the Ethics Office was spending as budgeted for fiscal year 2013. However, Ms. Hickson stated that because the Pay in Class study had impacted the three staff positions, there would be an increase in the office's personnel expenses.
5. **2012-2013 Work Plan**
Ms. Hickson reported on activities that support the 2012-2013 Work Plan in the following areas: operations, training, activities, advice, public education and outreach, investigation and enforcement actions, financial disclosure, and legislation and lobbying.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

6. Request from Ben Howard


The Board next considered the request made by Mr. Howard at its September meeting to issue a formal advisory opinion as to whether NPU bylaws are within the purview of the Ethics Code and if the Ethics Code should be expanded to include such matters. Following a lengthy discussion, Ms. Gaunt made a motion that this matter be referred to the Ethics Officer for consideration to determine if it warranted an opinion and respond in some form. The motion was not seconded so it was technically deficient. However, the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion which indicated its intent for the action to occur.

BOARD OPERATIONS

7. Personnel Matters

Ms. Millender made a motion to recess into executive session for personnel matters which was seconded by Mr. Adams, and the motion carried. The Board went into executive session at 6:49pm, and the meeting was called back to order at 6:57 by Chair Caroline Johnson Tanner. Ms. Crawford moved to reconvene the meeting, with a second by Ms. Millender, and the motion was approved.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



Jabu M. Sengova, Associate Ethics Officer
Approved November 15, 2012