

**City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Meeting
Minutes of November 15, 2012**

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was called to order by Chair Caroline Johnson Tanner at 6:16 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, and Shukura Ingram Millender. Board member Kate Wasch was absent. 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 October 18th meeting which was seconded by Mr. Adams. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

ENFORCEMENT ACTION

2. CO-07-006. In the Matter of James Sack

The Board conducted a probable cause hearing in Case Number CO-07-006 concerning former city employee, James Sack. Mr. Sack filed no written response to the Probable Cause Report and was not present at the hearing. Ms. Sengova presented the case that Mr. Sack violated the Code of Ethics when he took a city vehicle home overnight without authorization or approval from his former department; the Department of Watershed Management. Ms. Sengova argued that Mr. Sack was only authorized with overnight vehicle privileges from June 2011 to November 2011; and that he admitted to taking a city vehicle home after that period knowing that his privileges had been revoked. Ms Sengova recommended that the Board find probable cause that Mr. Sack violated section 2-811 of the Code of Ethics and set the matter down for an enforcement hearing in February 2013. Following a discussion, Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the associate ethics officer's recommendation that sufficient probable cause existed that Mr. Sack violated the Code of Ethics, which Ms. Millender seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

3. Vacate Final Order 12-FD-018. In the Matter of Jonnie Williams

Ms. Gaunt moved to accept Ms. Sengova's recommendation that the final order and public reprimand be vacated in this case because the filer had not served as Vice-Chair for NPU-G since sometime in 2010. Ms. Sengova reported that the Ethics Office was notified of this fact shortly after the September board meeting and verified this information with NPU-G's chair. After a brief discussion on the circumstances concerning this matter, Mr. Adams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. (Ms. Sengova left the meeting at this point)

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. Ms. Hickson explained that the Pay in Class study had impacted the two staff positions resulting in an increase in the office's personnel expenses; however, she was working with the Department of Finance on having funds allocated to the personnel line items in order to account for the City Council-approved salary increases. Ms. Hickson will be recommending increases in the Fiscal Year 2014 budget consistent with the Pay-in-Class study results as well as the need to contract with someone who can provide investigative services.

5. Update on Atlanta Business League Nominee

Ms. Hickson formally introduced Kai Williamson, the new Atlanta Business League nominee, to the Board. Ms. Williamson was present at the meeting and was expected to attend the December board retreat.

6. Recommendation on request from Ben Howard

Ms. Hickson recommended that this matter be referred to the December board retreat for further discussion.

7. 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.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.



Jabu M. Sengova, Associate Ethics Officer
Approved January 17, 2013