

**City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Meeting
Minutes of April 18, 2013**

The special called meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was called to order by Chair Caroline Johnson Tanner at 6:10 p.m. in the City Council Committee Room 2, 55 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Attending the meeting were board members Brent Adams, De'Lonn Brown, Kate Wasch and Kai Williamson. Staff members Nina R. Hickson and Sherry H. Dawson also attended; Jabu M. Sengova was absent. Board members Carol Snype Crawford and Shukura Ingram Millender were absent.

AGENDA

1. The Board unanimously approved the agenda of the special called meeting on a motion by Ms. Wasch and a second by Mr. Adams.

BOARD OPERATIONS

2. Election of Ethics Board Vice-Chair

Brent Adams was elected as the new Vice-Chair upon a motion from Ms. Wasch, which was seconded by Ms. Brown. The Board unanimously approved the motion to elect Mr. Adams as Vice-Chair.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

3. CO-12-004. In the Matter of James Sack

Ms. Hickson presented and recommended approval of a settlement agreement with former city employee James Sack. Mr. Sack acknowledged that he took a city vehicle home overnight without the requisite written authorization in violation of Section 2-811 of the Code of Ethics. The Board unanimously approved the settlement agreement on a motion from Ms. Wasch and a second by Mr. Adams.

ETHICS OFFICER'S REPORT

4. Discussion of proposed Formal Advisory Opinion regarding "tickets" and the New Stadium Proposal

Ms. Hickson presented opening remarks concerning the request for an opinion from the Ethics Board on the provision regarding "tickets/seating" which is included in a Memorandum of Agreement for the New Stadium Proposal. She stated that there was a need to clarify the facts around the request, and obtain public comments in order to have a robust discussion of the issue. She recommended the Board either update FAO 2004-7 or render a new opinion on this issue. The discussion by Ms. Hickson included the applicable Ethics Code Sections, Formal Advisory Opinion 2004-7 and several informal advisory opinions rendered on the issue of tickets. See document attached hereto. Among the issues to be resolved, is whether the Ethics Code applies to INVEST Atlanta since it is a local government authority and not a city department.

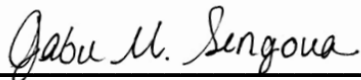
Rosalind Newell, General Counsel for INVEST Atlanta, appeared on behalf of the entity to respond to questions from the Board. Ms. Newell stated that INVEST Atlanta's intent was to draft a ticket policy which would limit the use of the tickets to economic development purposes, as well as include a mechanism to ensure strict

controls and demonstrate transparency. However, Board Chair Caroline Johnson Tanner expressed her concerns that the Memorandum of Agreement provision on seating directly violates Section 2-816 which prohibits the provision of tickets from being included as a term in such contracts. Public comments were heard from the Ethics Board former vice-chair and a Common Cause representative. The Board determined that it would consider all the information provided and discuss further at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

5. FY2014 Budget Discussion

Ms. Hickson reported that, based on the Administration's recommendation, there was a decrease in the Ethics Office's operational expenses due to the pay in class increases which were not accounted for. She also advised the Board that although the Mayor's Office is anticipating a \$five million reduction in General Fund revenue, the Ethics Office had not been asked to reduce its budget. The Board was cognizant of the reduction in the General Fund; however, it wanted the ability to raise the Ethics Officer's salary to the mid-point level if deemed appropriate. Therefore, the Board supported the Ethics Office's request for a budget of \$387,632.21 for fiscal year 2014.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.



Jabu M. Sengova, Associate Ethics Officer
Approved May 16, 2013