

**City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Meeting
Minutes of November 20, 2014**

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was called to order by Board 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, Shukura Ingram Millender, Patricia Upshaw-Monteith and Kate Wasch. Board members Carol Snype Crawford and Kai Williamson were absent. Staff members Jabu M. Sengova, Sherry H. Dawson and Carlos R. Santiago also attended. Ethics Officer Nina Hickson was absent.

MINUTES

1. Ms. Millender moved to approve the minutes of the October 23rd board meeting with a second by Ms. Upshaw-Monteith. The Board unanimously adopted the minutes.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

2. **Financial Disclosure Hearing – Non-contested - Late Filer**

14-FD-030: In the Matter of Michele C. Walker

Ms. Sengova presented evidence that Ms. Walker failed to file the 2014 Financial Disclosure Statement by the filing deadline without reasonable cause. Ms. Sengova requested that the Board find Ms. Walker in violation of section 2-814 of the Code of Ethics, impose an administrative sanction of \$100, recommend that the City consider her ineligible for rehire for one year and require her to pay the fine owed prior to her reemployment by the City. Ms. Sengova requested a reduction in the fine from \$250 to \$100 because Ms. Walker had appeared at the October 23rd board meeting, filed her financial disclosure statement at that time, and indicated that she was undergoing financial difficulties. Mr. Adams moved to adopt the recommendation of the Ethics Office with a second by Ms. Upshaw-Monteith. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Rescheduled Financial Disclosure Matters**

14-FD-021: In the Matter of Tommy Reid

Ms. Sengova reported that this matter has been resolved. Mr. Reid had agreed to a sanction of \$50 and paid the fine. The matter was closed administratively.

14-FD-016: In the Matter of Asha Palmer

Ms. Sengova presented evidence that Ms. Palmer was not required to file the 2014 financial disclosure statement. She had relocated out of the City to Dubai two years ago and had not served on the Civil Service Board since that time. Ms. Palmer had previously advised the Civil Service Board division that she could no longer serve due to her move out of the country. Based on the foregoing, the Ethics Office closed the matter with no further action.

14-FD-023: In the Matter of Carrie Salvary

Ms. Sengova reported that this matter has been resolved. Ms. Salvary had agreed to a fine of \$50 which she had paid. The matter was closed administratively.

ETHICS OFFICER'S REPORT

4. Work Plan

Ms. Sengova reported on activities that support the Ethics Office Work Plan in the area of public education and outreach. She reported that the Ethics Office prepared a holiday related brochure on ethics reminders that would be disseminated at the beginning of December in both printed form and electronically.

5. Request from Ben Howard

Ms. Tanner requested that this matter be moved to the January 2015 meeting.

6. FY15 Budget Report

Ms. Sengova presented the approved FY15 budget which allocates \$390,482 in personnel expenses and \$110,154 in operating expenses for a total budget of \$500,636. She also reported that the Ethics Office was spending as budgeted for fiscal year 2015.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. Comment by Vice-Chair Brent Adams

There were no public comments; however, Vice-Chair Brent Adams acknowledged that the November meeting was Caroline Johnson Tanner's last official board meeting after having consistently served on the board for six years. Ms. Tanner responded that it has been a privilege and an honor for her to serve as a member of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Jabu M. Sengova, Associate Ethics Officer
Approved January 15, 2015