

**City of Atlanta Governing Board of the
Office of the Inspector General and the Ethics Office
November 26, 2024, Special Called Meeting Minutes**

The special-called meeting of the City of Atlanta Governing Board of the Office of the Inspector General and the Ethics Office was called to order by Board Chair Nichola Hines at 6:05 p.m.

Attending the meeting were:

- Governing Board members: Nichola Hines (Chair), Todd Gray (Vice Chair), Rebecca Brubaker, Lisa Liang, Terri Simmons, Richard Taylor, and Cecily Welch;
- OIG staff members: Bradford Garvey (Deputy Inspector General for Independent Procurement Review), Shelby Williams (Deputy Inspector General for Compliance), and Felecia Henderson (Director of Information and Outreach);
- Ethics Office staff members: Sherry Dawson (Business Manager), and other staff members; and
- Guests: Mayor Andre Dickens, Chief Strategy Officer Peter Aman, Chief Operating Officer LaChandra Burks, Chief of Staff Odie Donald II, Chief Policy Officer Courtney English, City Attorney Patrise Perkins-Hooker, and other staff members.

Board members Andrew Cohen and Natalie Lewis, and Inspector General Shannon Manigault and Ethics Officer Jabu Sengova, were absent.

BOARD OPERATIONS

1. **Remarks by Mayor Andre Dickens.** Mayor Dickens appeared to address the Governing Board, noting that he had not made public comments concerning the IG or been invited to speak to the Board, and cited this as the basis for his appearance at the meeting. Mayor Dickens spoke about the importance of ethics and integrity in city government. However, he asserted that “absolute power corrupts absolutely” and no one, including the IG, should have unlimited power. Mayor Dickens stated that a review of the authority given to the IG is necessary to ensure that there are checks and balances as “no one is the judge, jury, and executioner.” Mayor Dickens also noted that the Board was out of compliance with its composition which should be reviewed to ensure the Board operates within the parameters of its legislation. He noted that the IG was admonished by the Ethics Officer for engaging in politically partisan conduct and the IG used public funds to buy spy pens and nanny cams. Mayor Dickens denounced statements made that he wanted to “shut down the OIG” and offered his support for both OIG and the Ethics Office, and the Board. He highlighted the credentials and reputation of the people who were appointed to the Task Force and suggested that the Board consider their recommendations prior to sending any further communications to his office.

2. **Discussion.**

The Board advised Mayor Dickens that the special-called meeting was called for the Board to prepare its response to the task force report. Further, the Board was seeking to have a response submitted to the Mayor and Council prior to any legislation being introduced at the next full council meeting. Mayor Dickens stated that his administration had no plans to introduce any legislation at the next council meeting. The Board thanked Mayor Dickens for his appearance, and recommended that the dialogue continue, and the mayor concurred. The Board advised Mayor Dickens of its retreat scheduled for December and stated an invitation would be extended to Mayor Dickens, the Task Force members, the Association of Inspectors General, and Councilmembers. Mayor Dickens advised that he would not be able to attend, but he would ensure that representatives from his office were present.

3. **Approval of Board Letter.**

Ms. Liang moved to remove previously planned items: Item #2 Discussion of Task Force Recommendations, and Item #3 Approval of Board Letter, from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brubaker and unanimously approved by the Board.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Governing Board of the Office of the Inspector General and the Ethics Office