



Atlanta Ethics

In Action

Volume 12, Issue 1 Winter 2018



BOARD OF ETHICS

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- ◆ November 15, 2018
- ◆ December 15, 2018 (Retreat)
- ◆ January 17, 2019*
*subject to change

Note: All regular meetings of the Board of Ethics are held at 6pm EST in City Council Committee Room 1. The public is invited to attend all board meetings.

ETHICS Q&A

Eddie is a city employee. Alex works for a city contractor and routinely delivers office supplies to Eddie's office. One day, Alex comes into the office and offers Eddie discounted tickets to an upcoming Atlanta United game.

Q1: Can Eddie accept the tickets if he pays the discounted price for the tickets?

Q2: Can Eddie accept the tickets if he donates them to charity?

Q3: Can Alex give the tickets to Eddie's office instead of to him?

ETHICS REFORM IN MOTION

The Ethics Office is in action! In January, the Atlanta City Council passed a resolution requesting that the Ethics Office conduct an *Ethics Study on Best Practices* as relates to vendors and contractors, also known as *prohibited sources*. As a result of the Study, the Atlanta Board of Ethics now has enforcement authority over conflicts of interest related to *prohibited sources*. In addition, an ethics pledge for prohibited sources was developed which will be included in future bid packages.

The Ethics Officer and City Auditor also conducted an independent review of bonuses and gifts distributed during the previous administration. The investigation found that the bonuses and contest winnings were not allowed under existing city and state laws.

Finally, the Ethics Office continues its efforts to train the City's workforce on the Code of Ethics. On October 25, 2018, nearly 200 city employees attended the fourth annual Ethics Lunch & Learn at City Hall. The session, led by Ethics Officer Jabu Sengova, focused on ethical decision making and lessons learned from past cases. The Ethics Office also conducted a series of interactive classroom training sessions for Procurement and Public Works employees.

FACT

All City officials and employees who are required to file a City Financial Disclosure Statement must disclose all outside business interests and employment income.



City Ethics Officer, Jabu Sengova, leads an interactive Lunch and Learn session for city employees in Old Council Chambers.

VISIT WWW.ATLANTAETHICS.ORG/NEWSLETTER
FOR THE ANSWERS TO THIS ISSUE'S ETHICS Q&A

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A LESSON ON ETHICS

"The Island Getaway"

Rick, a city employee, planned an island vacation months ago. He bought plane tickets for a family member and himself with airline miles. Shortly before the trip, Rick is notified by his supervisor that he will be required to speak at an upcoming city event the same weekend of his trip.

FICTION

The City will cover your family member's airfare and hotel costs when they travel with you on official city business.

No one else in Rick's office is qualified to speak at the event. As a result, Rick has to cancel his trip. Because he has to cancel on short notice, his department agrees to reimburse Rick for the cost of the airline mile reimbursement fee and change fee to rebook his flight for a later date. However, when Rick submits his receipts for reimbursement, he also submits additional receipts for the cost of two new plane tickets for his vacation. Rick's reimbursement is flagged during an audit and referred to the Ethics Office.

MORAL OF THE STORY: You should only seek reimbursement for travel costs which are allowed under the City's travel policy and for the conduct of official city business.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORMER VICE CHAIR HONORED

The City of Atlanta, the Board of Ethics, and the Ethics Office honored former Board Vice Chair, Brent Adams, during the Board's July 2018 meeting. The Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce selected Adams in 2011 and reappointed him in 2014 as its representative to serve on the Board. Adams has been a thoughtful and dedicated leader throughout his tenure. His graciousness, sound judgment, thoughtful analysis, and sense of humor will be sorely missed.



Pictured left to right: City Ethics Officer, Jabu Sengova, and former Board Vice Chair, Brent Adams.

THE ETHICS OFFICE IS GROWING

The Board of Ethics and Ethics Office recently welcomed its newest staff members. Ethics Advisor, Ibadapo Onabanjo, and Executive Assistant, Portia Reeves, join the existing staff to help the office execute its core mission to create a culture of ethics at the City of Atlanta.

BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

The Board of Ethics welcomes Wesley Tharpe, nominee of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, to replace long serving member and former Board Vice Chair, Brent Adams.

VISIT WWW.ATLANTAETHICS.ORG FOR MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF ETHICS



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