



Atlanta Ethics

In Action

Volume 13, Issue 1 Summer 2019



BOARD OF ETHICS AND INDEPENDENT COMPLIANCE

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- ◆ September 19, 2019
- ◆ October 17, 2019

All regular meetings of the Board of Ethics and Independent Compliance are held at 6pm EST in City Council Committee Room 1 and are open to the public.

ETHICS Q&A

Danielle is the receptionist in a small office at the 72 Marietta Street location. A long time vendor stops by the office and asks her on a date. He also offers her vouchers for discounted and free services at a spa that his sister owns in the city. Danielle is flattered but before responding she decides to send an email to the Ethics Office asking what she is allowed to do.

Q: Which of the following is the response Danielle should expect?

1. She may go on the date but she should not keep the vouchers.
2. She should not go on the date, but may keep the vouchers.
3. She should not go on the date or keep the vouchers.

CITY EXPANDS BOARD'S JURISDICTION

In March of this year, the City adopted Ordinance 19-O-1038 expanding the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics and renaming it the **Board of Ethics and Independent Compliance**. The basis of the expansion is to increase the City's commitment to transparency, compliance and ethics and to prevent fraud, corruption and abuse.

The Board, with the assistance of the City Ethics Officer, is responsible for enforcing the Code of Ethics and instilling a culture of ethics in city government. The Board functions through issuing formal advisory opinions, administering the financial disclosure process, holding enforcement hearings, and imposing penalties for ethics violations. The newly expanded Board will continue in that role, and with the assistance of an Independent Compliance Officer, will have the authority to investigate and take remedial action concerning allegations of waste, fraud and abuse throughout city government, investigate actions of officials and employees for alleged violations of the Personnel, Procurement and Real Estate Code and Transparency Code.

FACT

The Board holds eight public meetings annually.



Board of Ethics and Independent Compliance met July 18, 2019.

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

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A LESSON ON ETHICS

"The Supply Representative"

Brian is a former city employee who resigned from the City last month. While at the City, Brian worked in the supply division of the Public Works Department. Shortly after resigning, a city contractor who provides inventory to an office at the Airport, offers him a job as a supply representative. Brian happily accepts the offer.

FICTION

Former employees can never work for city contractors after they leave the city.

Soon after Brian begins his job with the contractor, he is sent to the Airport to update and supply the inventory in the office. When Brian arrives, an employee recognizes him. The employee is concerned, so he reaches out to the supervisor in Brian's former department to find out why Brian is supplying to their office. The former manager, just as surprised as the employee, reaches out to the Ethics Office because he does not think that Brian should be allowed to do this. (Names used above are fictional)

POST EMPLOYMENT RULE

Former employees are allowed to work for city contractors, but may not appear before the city on projects they worked on while at the city.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2019 TRANSPARENT DIAMOND AWARDS

The Board honored thirteen departments and 34 city boards at the 12th annual Transparent Diamond Awards Ceremony on May 16, 2019.

The awards are given to departments and city boards with the best financial disclosure filing records.

For a list of all the award recipients, please visit www.atlantaethics.org.



The Board presented awards to thirteen departments at the 2019 Transparent Diamond Awards Ceremony on May 16.

ETHICS OFFICE WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEE

The Board of Ethics and Independent Compliance and Ethics Office recently welcomed its newest staff member. Investigator, **Larry Mason**, joined 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 MEMBERS

The Board of Ethics and Independent Compliance welcomes **Chris Gilmore**, nominee of the Gate City Bar Association, **Lisa Liang**, nominee of the Atlanta Bar Association and **Matt Grosvenor**, nominee of the Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants. Board members are appointed to serve three-year terms.

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



City of Atlanta Ethics Office
68 Mitchell Street, SW
Suite 1100
Atlanta, GA 30303
Tel: (404) 330-6286

Integrity Hotline
1-800-884-0911

ethicsofficer@atlantaga.gov
www.atlantaethics.org