City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2009

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was called to order by John Lewis Jr. at 6:12 p.m. in City Council Committee Room 2, 55 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30303. Attending the meeting were board members Carol Snype Crawford, Charles Crawford Jr., Cathy Daniels, MaryAnne Gaunt, Caroline Tanner, and Charmaine Ward, and staff members Ginny Looney and Jabu Sengova.

MINUTES

1. The Board adopted the minutes of the November 20, 2008 meeting on a motion by Ms. Ward and a second by Ms. Gaunt.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS

2. CO-07-025. In the Matter of Cedric Means.

Ms. Looney presented and recommended approval of a settlement agreement with former city employee Cedric Means concerning his use of a city credit card for personal purchases, a violation of section 2-811. Ms. Daniels moved to adopt the settlement agreement, with a second by Ms. Gaunt. The Board approved the settlement unanimously. Mr. Crawford delivered a public reprimand to Mr. Means on behalf of the Board.

3. CO-08-005, CO-08-006. In the Matter of Ceasar C. Mitchell.

The Board next considered a settlement agreement with Councilmember Ceasar C. Mitchell concerning the engagement of his brother's company to provide consulting services to his council office, and his failure to disclose this contract on his 2007 and 2008 annual financial disclosure statements. Ms. Gaunt moved to adopt the settlement agreement and Ms. Daniels seconded the motion. The Board approved the settlement unanimously.

4. CO-08-007. In the Matter of Kwanza Hall.

Ms. Looney presented and recommended approval of a settlement agreement with Councilmember Kwanza Hall concerning his use of an email service for political purposes that was partially paid for with city funds in violation of section 2-811. Ms. Crawford moved to adopt the settlement agreement, with a second by Mr. Crawford. The settlement was approved unanimously by the Board.

PROBABLE CAUSE REPORT

5. CO-08-003. In the Matter of Balram Bheodari

Ms. Gaunt moved to approve Ms. Sengova's recommendation to dismiss for lack of probable cause the complaint against city employee Balram Bheodari concerning his regular overnight use of a take-home city vehicle. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion, and the Board adopted it unanimously.

BOARD OPERATIONS

6. Proposed Bylaws

The Board recommended changes to the proposed bylaws and asked Ms. Looney to present the revisions at the next meeting.

7. Proposed Code of Conduct

The Board discussed the proposed Code of Conduct, recommended changes, and asked Ms. Looney to prepare another draft for consideration at the next meeting.

ETHICS OFFICER'S REPORT

8. Ms. Looney reported that the Ethics Office was reducing its budget by the required 10% by leaving the administrative analyst position vacant. She reported that she had hired a part-time, temporary employee to assist during the financial disclosure filing season.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Jabu Sengova

Approved February 19, 2009

Jabu M. Singoua