City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2009

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was called to order by Vice-Chair MaryAnne Gaunt at 6:07 pm in the City Council Committee Room 2, 55 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Attending the meeting were board members Charles B. Crawford, Jr.; Carol Snype Crawford; Cathy Daniels; Caroline Tanner; and Charmaine Ward. Ethics Officer Ginny Looney and Associate Ethics Officer Jabu M. Sengova also attended. Chair John Lewis, Jr., was absent.

MINUTES

1. The Board unanimously adopted the minutes of the October 15, 2009, meeting on a motion by Ms. Crawford and a second by Ms. Tanner.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

2. Discussion with City Solicitor about ethics enforcement

City Solicitor Raines Carter stated that his office is committed to ethics enforcement, but his resources are weak with only 17 staff members. Board members asked Mr. Carter to file an accusation in ethics cases to toll the statute of limitations and preserve the right to prosecute. Mr. Carter agreed to track the statute of limitations in cases referred to his office and provide quarterly reports to the Board on ethics cases.

3. CO-09-005. In the Matter of H. Lamar Willis

Ms. Sengova recommended dismissal of the ethics complaint against Mr. Willis for lack of probable cause concerning his representation of a city employee and alleged use of his city council title during court proceedings. Ms. Crawford made a motion to accept the recommendation with a second by Ms. Ward, and the Board adopted it unanimously.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE CASES

4. 09FD030. In the Matter of Gloria Russell

Ms. Daniels moved to approve the settlement agreement that Ms. Looney presented, with a second by Ms. Tanner, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. 90FD005. In the Matter of Veronica Eagle

Mr. Crawford made a motion to adopt the consent order that Ms. Looney recommended. Ms. Ward seconded the motion, and all board members voted in favor of it.

6. 09FD023. In the Matter of Ronnie Marshall

Ms. Ward moved to accept the consent order that Ms. Looney recommended, with a second by Ms. Daniels, and the motion passed unanimously.

FORMAL ADVISORY OPINIONS

7. Ethics Advisory on Post-Employment Rule

Ms. Looney presented a proposed ethics advisory concerning rules on post employment service of former city elected officials and employees under section 2-810 and 2-814(e). The advisory states that former official and employees are subject to a ban on appearances before city agencies or boards for one year, cannot receive compensation for special knowledge acquired, and must comply with financial disclosure requirements in the year after they leave city employment or service.

OTHER

8. Ms. Sengova provided a briefing to the board on the 2008 Annual Integrity Line Report, and Ms. Looney reported that the office issued 11 cease and desist letter to candidates during the 2009 elections.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Jabu M. Sengova, Associate Ethics Officer

Approved January 21, 2010