

**City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Meeting
Minutes of July 15, 2010**

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was called to order by Vice Chair MaryAnne Gaunt, Jr. at 6:37 p.m in the City Council Committee Room 2, 55 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Attending the meeting were board members Charles B. Crawford, Jr.; Cathy Daniels; and Caroline Tanner. Chair John Lewis Jr. and board members Carol Snype Crawford and Charmaine Ward were absent. Staff members Ginny Looney, Jabu M. Sengova and Sherry Dawson also attended.

MINUTES

1. The Board approved the minutes of the May 20, 2010 meeting on a motion by Ms. Daniels and a second by Ms. Tanner.

ENFORCEMENT ACTION

2. CO-09-001. In the Matter of Robert Godfrey

Alison Danaceau from the law firm Carlton Fields presented evidence on behalf of the Ethics Officer that city employee, Robert Godfrey, violated the Code of Ethics when he accepted two meals from the law firm Martin & Jones, a prohibited source. She argued that Martin & Jones was a prohibited source because it was in an adverse position to the City and had interests that may have been substantially affected by Mr. Godfrey's performance as lead counsel in lawsuits for the City, and buying the dinners allowed the law firm access to the City. Mr. Godfrey was in attendance and argued in his defense. He argued that Martin & Jones was not a prohibited source because the firm was in an adversarial position to the City, and he believed that he did not violate the Code of Ethics by having the two dinners with the attorneys. Following a lengthy discussion on whether Martin & Jones was a prohibited source, Ms. Daniels made a motion that the Board find that Mr. Godfrey violated the Code of Ethics by accepting a gratuity of a dinner from a prohibited source, which is the law firm. Mr. Crawford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Mr. Crawford then moved that the Board approve the recommendation that Mr. Godfrey repay to the City the cost of his dinners, which was \$175. Ms. Tanner seconded the motion, and the Board passed it unanimously. After further discussion about a fine, Mr. Crawford moved to impose a \$250 fine; no seconding motion was made. Ms. Tanner then moved that the \$175 repayment is in the nature of a fine and no further fine should be levied against Mr. Godfrey. Ms. Daniels seconded the motion. The motion lost on a tie vote, with Ms. Daniels and Ms. Tanner voting in favor of the motion and Mr. Crawford and Ms. Gaunt voting against it.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE ENFORCEMENT HEARINGS

3. Group 1: Late filers – Current employees who have not paid their fine

10-FD-006	In the Matter of Tyrone Burke
10-FD-009	In the Matter of Bryan Dodson
10-FD-011	In the Matter of Keith Duffey
10-FD-021	In the Matter of Justin Kabota
10-FD-024	In the Matter of Frederick Mitchell
10-FD-025	In the Matter of Anthony Ogato
10-FD-034	In the Matter of Henry West

Following evidence presented by Ms. Sengova and discussion by the Board, Mr. Crawford made a motion to accept the recommendation to find that the current employees in this group violated section 2-814(e) of the Code of Ethics by failing to file the 2010 Financial Disclosure Statement by the filing deadline without reasonable cause, impose administrative sanctions of \$450, and issue subpoenas for the employees to appear at the board's September meeting to personally receive public reprimands. Ms. Tanner seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. Group 2: Late filers- Former employees and current board member who have not paid their fine

- 10-FD-001 In the Matter of Carlos Banda
- 10-FD-008 In the Matter of Sharyl Chatman
- 10-FD-010 In the Matter of Rekeba Doss
- 10-FD-012 In the Matter of Joshua Farcarlun
- 10-FD-035 In the Matter of Wayne Wilson

Following evidence presented by Ms. Sengova, Mr. Crawford moved to accept her recommendation to find that the former employees and current board member in this group violated section 2-814(e) of the Code of Ethics by failing to file the 2010 Financial Disclosure Statement by the filing deadline without reasonable cause, impose late fines ranging from \$50 to \$250, issue written public reprimands, and recommend that the City consider the former employees ineligible for rehire for one year and require the payment of the fines owed prior to their reemployment by the City. Ms. Daniels seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5. Group 3: Nonfilers- Former employees who have not filed

- 10-FD-005 In the Matter of James Brown
- 10-FD-007 In the Matter of Derrick Cannon
- 10-FD-013 In the Matter of Leslie Ford
- 10-FD-014 In the Matter of Antrell Gales
- 10-FD-015 In the Matter of Henry Gibson
- 10-FD-016 In the Matter of Semethia Grier
- 10-FD-030 In the Matter of Lizzie Summers

Following evidence presented by Ms. Sengova, Ms. Daniels made a motion to accept the recommendation that the former employees in this group violated section 2-814(e) of the Code of Ethics by failing to file the 2010 Financial Disclosure Statement without reasonable cause, impose administrative sanctions of \$500, issue written public reprimands, and recommend that the City consider the employees ineligible for rehire for one year and require the payment of the fines owed prior to their reemployment by the City. Mr. Crawford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ENFORCEMENT SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

6. CO-07-006. In the Matter of Deborah Scott Brooks

Ms. Looney recommended approval of a settlement agreement with former city employee Deborah Scott Brooks in which she acknowledged violating the Code of Ethics by waiving rental fees for the use of city facilities for her daughter's wedding and other private events. Ms. Daniels moved to accept the settlement agreement with a second by Ms. Tanner, and the Board approved the agreement unanimously.

ETHICS OFFICER'S REPORT

7. 2010-2011 Work Plan

Ms. Looney reported on activities that support the 2010-2011 Work Plan in the following areas: operations, training, activities, advice, public education and outreach, investigation and enforcement actions, financial disclosure, and legislation and lobbying.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.



Jabu M. Sengova, Associate Ethics Officer
Approved September 16, 2010