

**-City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Meeting
Minutes of January 17, 2013**

The monthly meeting of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was called to order by Chair Caroline Johnson Tanner at 6:10 p.m. in the City Council Committee Room 2, 55 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Attending the meeting were board members Brent Adams, DeLonn Brown, Carol Snype Crawford, MaryAnne Gaunt, Shukura Ingram Millender, Kai Williamson and Kate Wasch. Staff members Nina R. Hickson, Jabu M. Sengova, and Sherry H. Dawson also attended.

MINUTES

1. Ms. Wasch moved to approve the minutes of the November 15th meeting, seconded by Mr. Adams, and the Board unanimously adopted the minutes. Mr. Adams made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 1st board retreat, seconded by Ms. Wasch, and the Board unanimously accepted the minutes.

ENFORCEMENT ACTION

2. CO-12-004. In the Matter of Eddie Johnson

Ms. Hickson presented and recommended approval of a settlement agreement with former city employee, Eddie Johnson, which included a fine of \$400. Mr. Johnson acknowledged that he lent money to co-workers at an interest rate of a quarter on every dollar involving amounts of \$100 to \$500 per pay period, in violation of Section 2-821 of the Code of Ethics. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Adams moved to adopt the settlement agreement, with a second by Ms. Millender. The Board approved the settlement agreement unanimously.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

3. Report to Board on 2013 Filing Season

Ms. Hickson reported that the 2013 City Financial Disclosure Statement became available online as scheduled on January 15, 2013. The filing deadline is February 15, 2013 and the grace period ends on March 1, 2013.

BOARD OPERATIONS

4. FY13 Budget Report

Ms. Hickson presented the approved FY13 Budget which allocates \$285,799 in personnel expenses and \$65,942 in operating expenses for a total budget of \$351,741. She also reported that the Ethics Office was spending as budgeted for fiscal year 2013. Ms. Hickson reported that she was still working with the Department of Finance on having funds allocated to the personnel line items in order to account for the City Council-approved salary increases.

5. Meeting Schedule for 2013

Ms. Millender made a motion to approve the meeting schedule for 2013, with a second by Ms. Wasch, and the motion passed unanimously.

ETHICS OFFICER'S REPORT

6. Response to request from Ben Howard

Ms. Hickson recommended that based on her review of Mr. Howard's request that a formal advisory opinion not be issued by the Board. Mr. Adams moved to approve the ethics officer's recommendation, which was seconded by Ms. Wasch, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Annual Reports

Ms. Hickson reported that the Board of Ethics issued one formal advisory opinion and the Ethics Office wrote 97 advisory emails in 2012. In addition, the staff gave verbal advice to 73 persons and ethics training was provided to a total of 1140 city employees and officials. Ms. Hickson also presented a report on complaints and investigations from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, showing that seven new cases were opened, five cases were closed, and five cases remained open at the end of the year. Finally, Ms. Hickson reported on action taken in 2012 on the Ethics Office's 2011-2012 Work Plan.

8. 2012-2013 Work Plan

Ms. Hickson reported on activities that support the 2012-2013 Work Plan in the following areas: operations, training, activities, advice, public education and outreach, investigation and enforcement actions, financial disclosure, and legislation and lobbying.

9. Resolution honoring MaryAnne Gaunt's service

The Board adopted a resolution with recommended revisions honoring MaryAnne Gaunt for her board service during the past six years as a representative of the League of Women Voters.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.



Jabu M. Sengova, Associate Ethics Officer
Approved February 21, 2013