2017 City of Atlanta Board of Ethics Summer Board Retreat June 3, 2017

The summer retreat of the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics was held at Community Smith Restaurant, 866 West Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia, 30308. Attending the retreat were board members Kate Wasch, Nichola Hines and Jessica Stern. Board members Riah Greathouse and Todd Gray were absent. Also attending were Ethics Officer Jabu M. Sengova and staff members Carlos R. Santiago, Sherry Dawson and Janet Keene. Ms. Sengova facilitated the retreat.

Direction of Board and Role of Members

The following matters were discussed at the retreat:

- 1. Consider changing the time of monthly meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to improve attendance and timeliness of attendees.
- Establish on-boarding requirements for prospective board members which would ensure that the appointing authority submitting a nominee understand the role and expectations of new board members. Further, prospective board members would set up a meeting with the Ethics Officer to fully discuss expectations and requirements for service on the Ethics Board.
- 3. Draft additional Formal Advisory Opinions throughout the year.
- 4. Reinstate quarterly report of the Integrity Line "Hotline" and complaints received.
- 5. Implement a method for sharing docs possibly OneDrive (using Office 365).
- 6. Re-establish subcommittees. The two committees that will be established are: Education and Policy; Enforcement and Advice.

DeKalb Court Ruling and Potential Impact on the Atlanta Ethics Board

The board members and staff engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding a recent court decision which finds that DeKalb County Ethics board members cannot be appointed by private organizations. The board members discussed the potential implications for current Ethics Board members who were all appointed to the Board by private entities and for boards in the metro Atlanta area and State of Georgia. The board members and staff further discussed a potential legislative fix through an amendment of the Code of Ethics. The board members indicated that they wished to schedule a meeting with the City Attorney to discuss the matter further and determine next steps.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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Jabu M. Sengova, Ethics Officer Approved July 20, 2017