

Hillary S. Stringfellow
Chair

R. Lawton Jordan III
Vice Chair

Heath Garrett
Member



Dennis T. Cathey
Member

Mary Paige Adams
Member

Stefan Ritter
Executive Secretary

Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission

200 Piedmont Avenue SE | Suite 1402 – West Tower | Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Phone (404) 463-1980 | Facsimile (404) 463-1988
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Regular Meeting | Thursday, June 25, 2015 | 10:00 AM

Minutes of Commission Meeting

Location: Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Room 606, 18 Capitol Square SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

PRESENT:

Commission Members:

R. Lawton Jordan III, Vice-Chair
Heath Garrett, Commission Member
Mary Paige Adams, Commission Member

Commission Members via Phone:

Hillary Stringfellow, Chair
Dennis Cathey, Commission Member

Commission Staff:

Stefan Ritter, Executive Secretary
Robert Lane, Staff Attorney
Bethany Whetzel, Staff Attorney
Nancy Sandberg, Legal Administrative Assistant
Joel Perkins, IT Specialist
Andrew Booth, IT Specialist/Videographer

Office of the Attorney General:

Rebecca Mick, Assistant Attorney General

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM

OPENING COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR:

- Vice Chair Jordan identified all members present via phone as Chair Stringfellow and Commissioner Cathey and present as himself and Commissioner Adams. Commissioner Garrett arrived at 10:16 AM.
- Chair Stringfellow welcomed Stefan Ritter as the new Executive Secretary.
- Chair Stringfellow stated the following changes to the Agenda:
 - Probable Cause Hearing number two (2) for Penelope Ransom as of this morning will now become Consent Order number fourteen (14).
 - Probable Cause Hearing number four (4) for David Morgan will become Consent Order number fifteen (15).
 - Consent Order for Cynthia Rozzo will be tabled.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes of the March 25, 2015 Commission Meeting were motioned and approved as prepared with no corrections or revisions.

Motioned by: Commissioner Adams
Seconded by: Commissioner Jordan
Carried: 4 to 0

Minutes of the April 28, 2015 Commission Meeting were motioned and approved as prepared with no corrections or revisions.

Motioned by: Commissioner Jordan
Seconded by: Commissioner Adams
Carried: 4 to 0

PROBABLE CAUSE HEARINGS:

The following cases were motioned as follows:

- 2012-0055 Melynn Leftridge (RL): finding for reason of probable cause violation with no malfeasance.

Motioned by: Chair Stringfellow
Seconded by: Commissioner Adams
Carried: 5 to 0 to Approve

- 2014-0037 Carolyn Cosby (Georgians for Healthcare Freedom) (RL):

- Motion for Continuance

Motioned by: Commissioner Adams
Seconded by: Commissioner Garrett
Carried: 5 to 0 to Deny Motion

- Motion to Quash Subpoena

Motioned by: Commissioner Adams
Seconded by: Commissioner Garrett
Carried: 5 to 0 to Deny Motion

- Finding for Probable Cause

Motioned by: Chair Stringfellow
Seconded by: Commissioner Adams
Carried: 5 to 0 to Approve

CONSENT ORDERS:

The following Consent Orders were motioned and approved as presented:

- 2015-0001 Selma P. Coty (RL)
- 2015-008 Penny Penn (BW)
- 2015-0010 Penny Penn (BW)
- 2013-0034 Frank Forrest Floyd (RL)
- 2015-0018 Ural Glanville BW)
- 2013-0023 Kimberly James (RL)

- 2012-0044 Vanessa Diane Hewitt-Quinland (BW)
- 2013-0036 Vera Jones (RL)
- 2013-0048 Arlene Walker (RL)
- 2012-0053 Leslie Miller-Terry (BW)
- 2012-0057 Demetrius Douglas (RL)
- 2012-0060 Shelia Huddleston (BW)
- 2011-0016 (A) Beverly Holcomb (BW)
- 2011-0016 (B) Beverly Holcomb (BW)
- 2015-0013 Penelope Ransom (RL)
- 2012-0020PC David Morgan (RL)

*Motioned by: Commissioner Adams
 Seconded by: Commissioner Garrett
 Carried: 5 to 0*

ADVISORY OPINIONS:

- 2015-01 Georgia Public Service Commissioner, H. Doug Everett requested an advisory opinion on the permissible use of unspent campaign funds to pay for his wife’s travel expense to accompany him when he travels for public meetings/conferences due to reasons of his health.

*Motioned by: Commissioner Garrett
 Seconded by: Commissioner Jordan
 Carried: 5 to 0 to not accept proposed advisory opinion as currently drafted*

- 2015-02 Ms. Kari Smith requested an advisory opinion on two questions:
 - Must a Political Action Committee (PAC) register with the commission as both an Independent Committee and as a PAC?
 - Must a PAC operate two legally distinct entities in order to make independent expenditures and direct campaign contributions to candidates for office?

*Motioned by: Commissioner Adams
 Seconded by: Commissioner Garrett
 Carried: 5 to 0 to approve as presented*

LATE FEE HARDSHIP WAIVERS:

Eric Johnson (Lobbyist) was removed from the Agenda as he was unable to attend the meeting.

COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Executive Secretary Stefan Ritter gave the following presentations:

- Administrative Dismissals for:
 - 2015-0016 Steven West
 - 2013-0025 Johnny O. Smith
 - 2012-0019 David Morgan

- 2012-0040 Don Parsons
- 2012-0059 Dariel Daniel
- Status Report
 - Need to reconfigure office space to make the office more cohesive with a centralized filing section and to accommodate new employees allocated in the budget. This would require the elimination of the Training area.
 - Request to hire the following positions:
 - ◆ 2-3 Clerical
 - ◆ 2-3 Data Entry
 - ◆ 3 Auditors
 - ◆ 1 Attorney

Motioned by: Commissioner Jordan

Seconded by: Commissioner Garrett

Carried: 5 to 0 Approved to authorize Executive Secretary to hire positions requested.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COMMENTS:

Rebecca Mick of the Attorney General's Office announced that a new attorney has been hired that would be permanently assigned to work with the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Comments were heard by Mr. Clint Murphy, Chair of Common Cause

MEETING ADJOURNED:

It was motioned and approved to adjourn the meeting at 1:14 PM.

Motioned by: Commissioner Adams

Seconded by: Commissioner Garrett

Carried: 5 to 0

Official Minutes Statement

The foregoing Minutes for the June 25, 2015 meeting of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission were approved and adopted by the Commission at the Commission's meeting on September 24, 2015.

Hillary Stringfellow

 Hillary Stringfellow, Chair

September 24, 2015

 Date