



Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission

200 Piedmont Avenue SE | Suite 1402, West Tower | Atlanta, Georgia 30334

404-463-1980 | www.ethics.georgia.gov

Regular Meeting | Thursday June 25, 2015 | 10:00 AM

Summary 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, Attorney
Bethany Whetzel, Attorney
Nancy Sandberg, Legal Administrative Assistant
Joel Perkins, IT
Andrew Booth, Videographer

Office of the Attorney General:

Rebecca Mick, Attorney General's Office

SUMMARY OF SUBJECTS ACTED UPON:

Subject	Summary
Meeting Called to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM
Opening Comments of the Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice Chair Jordan identified all members present as himself and Commissioner Adams and present via phone as Chair Stringfellow and Commissioner Cathey. Commissioner Garrett arrived at 10:16 AM. Chair Stringfellow welcomed Stefan Ritter as the new Executive Secretary. Chair stated the following changes to the Agenda; that Probable Cause Hearing number two (2) for Penelope Ransom as of this morning will now become Consent Order number fourteen (14) and Probable Cause Hearing number four (4) for David Morgan will become Consent Order number fifteen (15) and Consent Order for Cynthia Rozzo to be tabled.

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Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motioned and approved to adopt the Commission Meeting minutes of March 25, 2015 as prepared with no corrections or revisions. • Motioned and approved to adopt the Commission Meeting minutes of April 28, 2015 as prepared with no corrections or revisions.
Probable Cause Hearings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probable Cause: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2012-0055 Melynee Leftridge (RL) Motioned and approved finding for reason of probable cause violation with no malfeasance. ○ 2014-0037 Carolyn Cosby (Georgians for Healthcare Freedom) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motioned and approved to Deny Continuance. ▪ Motioned and approved to Deny Motion to Quash. ▪ Motioned and approved finding for Probable Cause violation.
Consent Orders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent Orders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2015-0001: Selma P. Coty (RL) Motioned and approved to assess \$300 Civil Penalty. ○ 2015-0008: Penny Penn (BW) 2015-0010: Penny Penn (BW) Motioned and approved to assess \$500 Civil Penalty. ○ 2013-0034: Frank Forrest Floyd (RL) Motioned and approved to assess \$250 Late Fees and \$200 Civil Penalty. ○ 2015-0018: Ural Glanville (BW) Motioned and approved to assess no Civil Penalty as he promptly paid his Late Fees upon notice. ○ 2013-0023: Kimberly James (RL) Motioned and approved to assess \$500 Late Fees. ○ 2012-0044: Vanessa Diane Hewitt-Quinland (BW) Motioned and approved to assess \$100 Civil Penalty. ○ 2013-0036: Vera Jones (RL) Motioned and approved to assess \$2,750 Late Fees and \$675 Civil Penalty.



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Consent Orders <i>(Continued)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2013-0048: Arlene Walker (RL) Motioned and approved to assess \$700 Civil Penalty. ○ 2012-0053: Leslie Miller-Terry (BW) Motioned and approved to assess \$250 Civil Penalty. ○ 2012-0057: Demetrius Douglas (RL) Motioned and approved to assess \$350 Late Fees and \$1,500 Civil Penalty. ○ 2012-0060: Shelia Huddleston (BW) Motioned and approved to assess \$100 Civil Penalty. ○ 2011-0016 (A): Beverly Holcomb (BW) 2011-0016 (B): Beverly Holcomb (BW) Motioned and approved to assess \$125 Late Fee. ○ 2015-0013 Penelope Ransom (RL) Motioned and approved to assess \$150 Civil Penalty. ○ 2012-0020PC David Morgan (RL) Motioned and approved to assess \$175 Late Fee and \$3,600 Civil Penalty.
Advisory Opinions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2015-01 Georgia Public Service Commissioner, H. Doug Everett requested an advisory opinion asking if it is permissible to use 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. After extensive discussion it was motioned and approved to not accept the proposed Advisory Opinion 2015-01 as currently drafted.
Advisory Opinions <i>(Continued)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2015-02 Ms. Kaari Smith requested an advisory opinion on two questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must a Political Action Committee register with the Commission as both an Independent Committee and as a Political Action Committee? 2. Must a Political Action Committee operate two legally distinct entities in order to make independent expenditures and direct campaign contributions to candidates for office?

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Advisory Opinions (<i>Continued</i>)	Moted and approved Advisory Opinion 2015-02 as presented.
Late Fee Hardship Waiver Appeals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eric Johnson (Lobbyist) Removed from Agenda as he was unable to attend the meeting.
Comments by the Executive Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Secretary, Stefan Ritter gave the following presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Administrative Dismissals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2015-0016 Steven West ▪ 2013-0025 Johnny O. Smith ▪ 2012-0019 David Morgan ▪ 2012-0040 Don Parsons ▪ 2012-0059 Dariel Daniel ○ Status Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 Clerical 2-3 Data Entry 3 Auditors 1 Attorney <p>Commissioners motioned and approved to authorize the Executive Secretary to hire the above positions.</p>
Attorney General's Office Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments were heard by Mr. Clint Murphy, Chair of Common Cause.
Meeting Adjourned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motioned and approved to adjourn the meeting at 1:14 PM.