



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, December 8, 2016 | 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, Chair
Mary Paige Adams, Vice Chair
Jake Evans, Commission Member
James D. Kreyenbuhl, Commission Member

Office of the Attorney-General:

Jennifer Colangelo, Assistant Attorney-General

Commission Staff:

Stefan Ritter, Executive Secretary
Robert Lane, Deputy Executive Secretary
Bethany Whetzel, Deputy Executive Secretary
Nancy Sandberg, Legal Administrative Assistant
Maria Bazille, IT/ Videographer
Chris Phelps, Paralegal

SUMMARY OF SUBJECTS ACTED UPON:

Subject	Summary
Meeting Called to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM
Opening Comments of the Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chair Jordan welcomed the public, stating that Commissioner Dennis Cathey is absent from the meeting, as he had a prior speaking commitment. He introduced the fifth and newest Commission member, James D. Kreyenbuhl of Savannah, who was appointed by Speaker of the House, David Ralston.
Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Motioned and approved to adopt the Commission Meeting minutes of September 19, 2016 as prepared with no corrections or revisions.
Quarterly Meeting Schedule for 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Motioned and approved to set the schedule for the 2017 Quarterly Commission Meetings for the following dates: Thursday, March 23rd; Thursday, June 22nd; Thursday, September 21st; and Wednesday, December 6th.

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Subject	Summary
Late Fee Hardship Waiver Request Appeals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Executive Secretary gave a presentation on the Late Fee Process, the Statutes and Procedures, when and how Late Fee Fines escalate for Late Filed Campaign Contribution Disclosure Reports (CCDRs), Personal Financial Disclosure Statements (PFDS), Lobbyist Reports and Levels, the process for submitting a Late Fee Hardship Waiver Request and the criteria for granting/denying Hardship Waivers.• The following Late Fee Hardship Waiver Request Appeals were heard:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) In the Matter of Representative Elizabeth “Betty” Price: Representative Price’s attorney has a conflict today and was unable to attend the meeting, since the case is not a formal case and was informally put on the calendar at the request of Representative Price, the Commission moved to continue her Appeal until the next meeting in March 2017.b) In the Matter of Robert “Al” Smith: It was motioned and approved to reduce his Late Fee to \$200, based on the fact that he is a first time Lobbyist and had a zero report.c) In the Matter of Brad Carver on behalf of and for Lobbyist members of Hall, Booth, Smith – Georgia Government Affairs Team: Chair Lawton recused himself. The commission staff received 31 late fee hardship requests for 4 reports for each person (except for Mr. Makie, who had 3 reports) that were due the same day from 8 lobbyists. It was motioned and approved to further reduce each person’s total previously reduced fine from \$1,100 per individual (except Mr. Mackie’s fine, which was \$825) to \$275 each. Each lobbyist is to pay their \$275 fine individually, as all of the lobbyist are individually members of the State Bar and have a responsibility individually to follow the law and file their reports and pay their required fines individually.
Compliance Agreements/ Consent Order Hearings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The following Compliance Agreements were motioned and approved as presented:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2010-0029: In the Matter of Jody Cash (RL)○ 2010-0013: In the Matter of William Lee (RL)○ 2012-0079: In the Matter of Earnest Smith (RL)○ 2010-0012: In the Matter of Earnest Smith (RL)○ 2010-0006: In the Matter of Curt Thompson (BW)

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Subject	Summary
Compliance Agreements/ Consent Order Hearings (<i>continued</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The following Consent Orders were motioned and approved as presented:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2016-0054: In the Matter of James Patrick Rasbury (BW)○ 2013-0037: In the Matter of Steven A. Vezo (BW)○ 2010-0082PC: In the Matter of Rodney Edenfield (BW)○ 2010-0054: In the Matter of Paulette Rakestraw-Braddock (BW)○ 2010-0058: In the Matter of Paulette Rakestraw-Braddock (BW)○ Consent Order 2009-0012: In the Matter of Michael Julian Bond (BW). After much discussion, it was motioned and approved as presented with one edit, that he complete the required training classes within 6 months by June 30, 2017, instead of by June 30, 2018.
Preliminary Hearings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Preliminary Hearings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2011-0014: In the Matter of Jacqueline Slaughter-Gibbons (BW) Motioned and approved to accept the Consent Order as presented.○ 2016-0053PC: In the Matter of Vincent Dean Fort (RL). Motioned and approved to accept the Compliance Order as presented.○ 2010-0062: In the Matter of Courtney Dillard (BW) Motioned and approved to continue preliminary hearing to the next meeting in March 2017, as there is some confusion as to whether he wants to settle with Consent order or continue with a Preliminary hearing.○ 2016-0049: In the Matter of Jack Doyle Taylor (RL) Motioned and approved to find reasonable grounds to believe that violations have occurred.○ 2010-0031: In the Matter of David Ralston (BW) Commissioner Kreyenbuhl recused himself. Motioned and approved to accept the Consent Order as presented.○ 2016-0055: In the Matter of Randy G. Daniel (RL) Motioned and approved to accept the Consent Order as presented.○ 2016-0025: In the Matter of Conda Lowery Goodson (RL) Motioned and approved to find reasonable grounds to believe that violations have occurred, as she has declined to enter into a Consent Order.○ 2009-0045: In the Matter of J. Wayne Garner (RL) Motioned and approved to a continuance with the instructions to enter into a Consent Order and bring it to the next meeting in March 2017.

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Preliminary Hearings (<i>continued</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2010-0005: In the Matter of Carlotta Harrell (RL) Motioned and approved to find reasonable grounds to believe that violations have occurred. ○ 2010-0047: In the Matter of Todd Lawrence Levent (RL) Motioned and approved to accept the Compliance Order as presented. ○ 2010-0053: In the Matter of Neil Craig Prewett (RL) Motioned and approved to table to the next meeting in March 2017, since we lack proof of service to his legal counsel. ○ 2010-0061: In the Matter of Sandra Lucille Murray (RL) Motion and approved to move to the next meeting in March 2017, and again attempt to serve her notice, since we have been unable to properly serve meeting notice.
Respondent's Motion to Quash Subpoena (served upon Marvin Arrington)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No motion made as to the Respondent's Motion to Quash Subpoena, since a Consent Order Withdrawing the Motion to Quash Subpoena was received prior to the meeting. The Commission stated that the inspection of the bank records has to occur by January 31, 2017 and if the respondent fails to honor the Subpoena, it will then be referred to Superior Court.
Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motioned and approved to Dismiss the following cases for Lack of Service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 2010-0008: In the Matter of Joseph Flint (BW) b) 2010-0010: In the Matter of Keith Gross (RL)
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 Dismissal Summaries for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2010-0051: In the Matter of David Benson Barnett (RL) ▪ 2010-0067: In the Matter of JaNice Van Ness (RL) ▪ 2008-0095: In the Matter of Michelle Conlon (RL) ▪ 2012-0008: In the Matter of Benjamin Futch II (BW) ▪ 2010-0036: In the Matter of Judson Hill (BW) ▪ 2010-0037: In the Matter of Judson Hill (BW) ▪ 2012-0018: In the Matter of Forsyth County TEA Party (BW) ○ Report on Case Backlog: This year to date we have had 71 new cases, 17 of which were received since the last meeting. Bethany Whetzel and Robert Lane have diligently worked on getting the backlog of cases down prior to 2014 while receiving new cases. As of today 65% of those cases have been closed. It is anticipated that by the March meeting they will be close to closing in some manner close to 100% of the back cases (old, dated, and not actionable, as there is so little information in the case).

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Comments by the Executive Secretary (<i>continued</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Lobbyist Update: Lobbyist registration began the beginning of December, on site for first time registrants and online for renewals of registration. He have good badges this year, and are sending out the badges earlier than in the past. Registration looks like it will go much smoother this year. We are looking into the ability to investigate and prosecute those who lobby, but do not register, as this has been and continues to be a severe problem.○ Legislative Update: Clean up of our statutes are non-substantial other than bureaucratic problems with local filing and data methodology. We propose to give the local filers the option to choose either to file with us electronically or paper file with their local office.○ Office Space Update: We hope that by March, most if not all of the office renovations will be completed.○ Employee Update: We are seeking to hire a Data Analyst on a temporary basis. .
Attorney-General's Office Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jennifer Colangelo was introduced as representing the Attorney General's Office in Christian Fullers absence. There were no comments.
Comments from the Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair Jordan stated that the Legislative change proposed in regards to local filers is good. He then went on to state the staff of the Commission in the Commission office are a good group of people that he got a chance to get to know more when he attended their Thanksgiving luncheon.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was no public comment.
Meeting Adjourned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motioned and approved to adjourn the meeting at 12:56 PM.