



**Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission**

200 Piedmont Avenue | Suite 1402, West Tower | Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
404-463-1980 | [www.ethics.georgia.gov](http://www.ethics.georgia.gov)

# Minutes of Commission Meeting

## Regular Meeting | Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM

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  
Dennis Cathey, Commission Member  
Jake Evans, Commission Member  
James D. Kreyenbuhl, Commission Member

Office of the Attorney General:

Christian Fuller, Assistant Attorney-General

Commission Staff:

Stefan Ritter, Executive Secretary  
Robert Lane, Deputy Executive Secretary  
Bethany Whetzel, Deputy Executive Secretary  
Nancy Sandberg, Legal Administrative Assistant  
Chris Phelps, Paralegal  
Natalie Harper, Auditor  
Maria Bazile, IT  
DeAngelo Hall, Videographer

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM.

**OPENING COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR:**

Chair Jordan opened the meeting, welcomed the public. Prior to the break for lunch, Commissioner Cathey exited the meeting for a prior commitment and during the break for lunch Commissioner Evans exited the meeting for a prior commitment.

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES:**

Minutes of the December 8, 2016 Commission Meeting were motioned and approved as prepared with no corrections or revisions.

*Motioned by: Vice Chair Adams*  
*Seconded by: Commissioner Cathey*  
*Carried: 5 to 0*

**PRELIMINARY HEARINGS:**

The following cases were motioned and approved as follows:

- 2016-0023PC: In the Matter of Ceasar C. Mitchell (RL):  
After much discussion and allowing a recess for the attorneys to talk some more and come to an agreement, it was motioned and approved to accept the Consent Order as negotiated and presented at the meeting.

*Motioned by: Vice-Chair Adams*  
*Seconded by: Commissioner Cathey*  
*Carried: 5 to 0*

- 2013-0053: In the Matter of Norman Garrett (BW):  
It was motioned and seconded to table until the next meeting to allow respondent to gather the correct documentation to see if he is eligible to apply for a hardship waiver. After a short discussion the motion was withdrawn.

*Motioned by: Vice-Chair Adams*  
*Seconded by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl*  
*Carried: Motion was withdrawn by Vice-Chair Adams*

It was motioned, but not seconded to table until the next meeting with a fine reduced to \$200. The motion died without action.

*Motioned by: Chair Jordan*  
*Seconded by: No second*  
*Carried: Motion died with no action*

Motioned and approved to table until the next meeting to allow respondent to gather the correct documentation to see if he is eligible to apply for a hardship waiver, and to work on an agreement of Consent Order.

*Motioned by: Commissioner Cathey*  
*Seconded by: Chair Jordan*  
*Carried: 5 to 0*

- 2013-0043: In the Matter of Emanuel Ransom (BW):  
Motioned and approved to accept the Consent Order as negotiated and presented at the meeting.  
*Motioned by: Chair Jordan*  
*Seconded by: Vice-Chair Adams*  
*Carried: 5 to 0*

- 2010-0062: In the Matter of Courtney Dillard (BW):  
Motioned and approved to find reasonable grounds to believe that violations have occurred.  
*Motioned by: Chair Jordan*  
*Seconded by: Vice-Chair Adams*  
*Carried: 4 to 0*

Motioned and approved to accept pending receipt of the signed/notarized original Consent Order within 30 days of receiving.

*Motioned by: Vice-Chair Adam*  
*Seconded by: Commissioner Evans*  
*Carried: 4 to 0*

- 2012-0046: In the Matter of Melissa Watson Morrison (BW):  
Motioned and approved to find reasonable grounds to believe that violations have occurred and to accept pending receipt of the signed/notarized original Consent Order within 30 days of receiving.  
*Motioned by: Chair Jordan*  
*Seconded by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl*  
*Carried: 4 to 0*

- 2010-0053: In the Matter of Neil Craig Prewett (RL):  
Motioned and approved to remove and table until such time that respondent can be properly served and obtain a Notice of Withdrawal from his legal counsel.  
*Motioned by: Vice-Chair Adams*

*Seconded by: Chair Jordan*  
*Carried: 3 to 0*

- 2011-0022: In the Matter of Houston Nelson (BW):  
Motioned and approved to find reasonable grounds to believe that violations have occurred and to enter into a Consent Order within 30 days after he is located.  
*Motioned by: Chair Jordan*  
*Seconded by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl*  
*Carried: 3 to 0*
- 2010-0061: In the Matter of Sandra Lucille Murray (RL):  
Motioned and approved to find reasonable grounds to believe that violations have occurred.  
*Motioned by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl*  
*Seconded by: Chair Jordan*  
*Carried: 3 to 0*
- 2012-0080: In the Matter of Jon Dobbs (BW):  
Motioned and approved to find reasonable grounds to believe that violations have occurred.  
*Motioned by: Chair Jordan*  
*Seconded by: Vice-Chair Adams*  
*Carried: 3 to 0*
- 2012-0047: In the Matter of Michael Ray James (RL):  
Motioned and approved that the prior finding is considered invalid for reasons of unsure of service, and based on service and substantive evidence to find reasonable grounds to believe that a violation has occurred..  
*Motioned by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl*  
*Seconded by: Chair Jordan*  
*Carried: 3 to 0*
- 2013-0030: In the Matter of Norma Beth Harris (BW):  
Motioned and approved to find reasonable grounds to believe that violations have occurred.  
*Motioned by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl s*  
*Seconded by: Commissioner Evans*  
*Carried: 4 to 0*
- 2009-0045: In the Matter of J. Wayne Garner (RL):  
Motioned and approved to table and have a process server attempt to serve personally.  
*Motioned by: Vice-Chair Adams*  
*Seconded by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl*  
*Carried: 3 to 0*
- 2013-0028: In the Matter of John Wells (BW):  
Motioned and approved to find reasonable grounds to believe that violations have occurred and to accept pending receipt of the signed/notarized original Consent Order within 30 days of receiving.  
*Motioned by: Vice-Chair Adams*  
*Seconded by: Chair Jordan*  
*Carried: 3 to 0*
- 2012-0014 and 2012-0061: In the Matter of Osborn Nesbitt (BW):  
The Case was continued upon the request of respondent's legal counsel.

## MOTION TO DISMISS

It was motioned and approved to dismiss the following cases in their entirety as read:

- 2008-0073 and 2008-0096: In the Matter of J. W. Payne (RL)
- 2008-0018PC: In the Matter of Robert “Bob” Hartley (RL)
- 060-90-0001-01: In the Matter of Emmanuel Eaves (RL)
- 2012-0048: In the Matter of Chip Rogers (BW)

*Motioned by: Chair Jordan*

*Seconded by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl*

*Carried: 4 to 0*

## COMPLIANCE AGREEMENTS:

The following Compliance Agreement was motioned and approved as presented:

- 2013-0024: In the Matter of Robert P. Jones (BW):

*Motioned by: Chair Jordan*

*Seconded by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl*

*Carried: 3 to 0*

## CONSENT ORDERS:

The following Consent Orders were motioned and approved as presented:

- 2013-0010: In the Matter of Henry Lamar Willis (BW):

*Motioned by: Chair Jordan*

*Seconded by: Vice-Chair Adams*

*Carried: 3 to 0*

- 2016-0049: In the Matter of Jack Doyle Taylor (RL):

*Motioned by: Chair Jordan*

*Seconded by: Vice-Chair Adams*

*Carried: 3 to 0*

- 2010-0005: In the Matter of Carlotta Harrell (RL):

*Motioned by: Chair Jordan*

*Seconded by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl*

*Carried: 3 to 0*

- 2010-0069: In the Matter of Tamela Adkins (RL):

*Motioned by: Chair Jordan*

*Seconded by: Vice-Chair Adams*

*Carried: 3 to 0*

- 2016-0057: In the Matter of Charles W. Ware (RL):

*Motioned by: Chair Jordan*

*Seconded by: Vice-Chair Adams*

*Carried: 3 to 0*

- 2009-0027: In the Matter of Friends of Aaron Watson (RL):  
*Motioned by: Chair Jordan*  
*Seconded by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl*  
*Carried: 3 to 0*
  
- 2011-0010: In the Matter of Janie B. Reid (BW):  
*Motioned by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl*  
*Seconded by: Chair Jordan*  
*Carried: 3 to 0*
  
- 2013-0007: In the Matter of Edmond Richardson (BW):  
*Motioned by: Chair Jordan*  
*Seconded by: Vice-Chair Adams*  
*Carried: 3 to 0*

**COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:**

Executive Secretary, Stefan Ritter gave the following presentations:

- Administrative Dismissal Summaries since the last meeting were presented by Memorandum for the following:
  - ◆ 2005-0051PC: In the Matter of Reginald Boddie (RL)
  - ◆ 060-97-009-01-01: In the Matter of Eddie Brewster (RL)
  - ◆ 044-91-004-04-01: In the Matter of Elbert Jenkins (RL)
  - ◆ 060-94-014-03-01: In the Matter of India Dynene Willett (RL)
  - ◆ 060-94-005-01-01: In the Matter of Munson W. Steed (RL)
  - ◆ 2016-0051: In the Matter of Larry Joe Bennett Sr. (RL)
  - ◆ 2010-0055: In the Matter of the Estate of Donald S. Walker (RL)
  - ◆ 2008-0102: In the Matter of Stan Watson (RL)
  - ◆ 2011-0017(a)(b): In the Matter of Rodney King (RL)
  - ◆ 2010-0042: In the Matter of Judson Hill (BW)
  - ◆ 2010-0052: In the Matter of Friends of Tim Echols (BW)
  - ◆ 2012-0057: In the Matter of Robert P. Jones (BW)
  - ◆ 2012-0022: In the Matter of Walter Yost (BW)
  
- Contribution Limits Adjustment:  
 After a short discussion, it was motioned and decided not to consider the adjustment today, but to follow prior regulation to move this item to the regular meeting in December.  
*Motioned by: Chair Jordan*  
*Seconded by: Commissioner Cathey*  
*Carried: 5 to 0*
  
- Report on Case Backlog:  
 This year to date, we have had three (3) new cases which were received since the last meeting. Attorneys Bethany Whetzel and Robert Lane have been diligently working on getting the backlog cases closed. As of today, 159 cases are closed, which brings our total up to 95% of those cases which have been closed. It is anticipated that by the June meeting, they will be close to closing in some manner close to 100% of the backlog cases with the exception of those with service issues and Consent Order negotiations. There are 116 cases pending that are after back log cases.
  
- Legislative Update:

The legislature decided ultimately not to put through this year House Bill 399, which was to clean up the Campaign Finance Act of how draconian lobbyist penalties are arrived at, and bureaucratic problems with local filing and data methodology. We will take this up again next year.

- Office Space Update:  
Construction has begun and should be done within a month or so, the deadline being May 1<sup>st</sup>. The renovations will allow us space for new employees.
- Employee Update:  
As we hire new employees, there will be a reallocation of work and reassignment of tasks. We will soon be conducting performance evaluation reviews and hope to implement merit based raises. .

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COMMENTS:**

Christian Fuller gave an update on the six Carolyn Cosby cases. .

**COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR:**

Chair Jordan stated that he welcomes the updates on the cases before OSAH and will put them for future meetings at the top of the agenda.

**COMMENTS OF THE PUBLIC:**

There were no public comments.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

The meeting was motioned and approved to adjourn the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

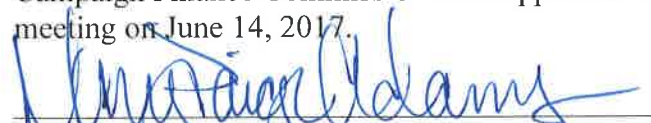
*Motioned by: Chair Jordan*


*Seconded by: Vice-Chair Adams*

*Carried: 3 to 0*

**Official Minutes Statement**

The foregoing Minutes for the March 23, 2017 meeting of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission were approved and adopted by the Commission at the Commission's meeting on June 14, 2017.

  
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Mary Paige Adams, Chair

  
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Date