



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, March 23, 2017 | 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
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 Bazille, IT
DeAngelo Hall, Videographer

SUMMARY OF SUBJECTS ACTED UPON:

Subject	Summary
Meeting Called to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM
Opening Comments of the Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Jordan welcomed the public.
Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motioned and approved to adopt the Commission Meeting minutes of December 8, 2016 as prepared with no corrections or revisions.
Preliminary Hearings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Hearings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016-0023PC: In the Matter of Ceasar C. Mitchell (RL). Motioned and approved to accept the Consent Order as negotiated and presented at the meeting. 2013-0053: In the Matter of Norman Garrett (BW) 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.
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Preliminary Hearings (<i>continued</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2013-0043: In the Matter of Emanuel Ransom (BW) Motioned and approved to accept the Consent Order as negotiated and presented at the meeting. ○ 2010-0062: In the Matter of Courtney Dillard (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. ○ 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 ○ 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 from his legal counsel a Notice of Withdrawal. ○ 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 found. ○ 2010-0061: In the Matter of Sandra Lucille Murray (RL) Motioned and approved to find reasonable grounds to believe that violations have occurred. ○ 2012-0080: In the Matter of John Dobbs (BW) Motioned and approved to find reasonable grounds to believe that violations have occurred ○ 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. ○ 2013-0030: In the Matter of Norma Beth Harris (BW) Motioned and approved to find reasonable grounds to believe that violations have occurred. ○ 2009-0045: In the Matter of J. Wayne Garner (RL) Motioned and approved to table and have process server attempt to serve personally. ○ 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. ○ 2012-0014 & 2012-0061: In the Matter of Osborn Nesbitt (BW) Case was continued upon request of respondent's legal counsel.
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<p>Motion to Dismiss.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motioned and approved to Dismiss the following cases all in entirety as read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 2008-0073 & 2008-0096: In the Matter of J. W. Payne (RL) b) 2008-0018PC: In the Matter of Robert “Bob” Hartley (RL) c) 060-90-0001-01: In the Matter of Emmanuel Eaves (RL) d) 2012-0048: In the Matter of Chip Rogers (BW)
<p>Compliance Agreements/ Consent Orders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The following Compliance Agreements/Consent Orders were motioned and approved as presented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2013-0010: In the Matter of Henry Lamar Willis (BW) ○ 2016-0049: In the Matter of Jack Doyle Taylor (RL) ○ 2010-0005: In the Matter of Carlotta Harrell (RL) ○ 2010-0069: In the Matter of Tamela L. Adkins (RL) ○ 2016-0057: In the Matter of Charles W. Ware (RL) ○ 2009-0027: In the Matter of Friends of Aaron Watson (RL) ○ 2013-0024: In the Matter of Robert P. Jones (BW) ○ 2011-0010: In the Matter of Janie B. Reid (BW) ○ 2013-0007: In the Matter of Edmond Richardson (BW)
<p>Subject</p>	<p>Summary</p>
<p>Comments by the Executive Secretary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Secretary, Stefan Ritter gave the following presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Administrative Dismissal Summaries since last meeting were presented by Memorandum for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2005-0051PC: In the Matter of Reginald Boddie (RL) ▪ 606-97-009-01-01: 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 Terry Sweeney (RL) ▪ 2008-0045: 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) ▪ 2010-0057: 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.
<p>Subject</p>	<p>Summary</p>
<p>Comments by the Executive Secretary <i>(continued)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report on Case Backlog: This year to date we have had 3 new cases which were received since the last meeting. Bethany Whetzel and Robert Lane have

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	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 1st. 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 Office Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christian Fuller gave an update on the six Carolyn Cosby cases.
Comments from the Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chair Jordan stated he welcomes the updates on the cases before OSAH and will put them for future meetings at the top of the agenda.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There were no public comment.
Meeting Adjourned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motioned and approved to adjourn the meeting at 2:03 PM.