

Minutes of Commission Meeting

Commission Meeting | Thursday, January 16, 2014 | 11:00 AM

Location: 200 Piedmont Avenue SE, Suite 1514A, 15th Floor, West Tower
 Atlanta, GA 30334

PRESENT:

Commission Members:

Kevin Abernethy, Chair
 Hillary Stringfellow, Vice Chair
 Heath Garrett, Commission Member
 Dennis Cathey, Commission Member
 R. Lawton Jordan III, Commission Member

Commission Staff:

Holly LaBerge, Executive Director
 Lisa Dentler, Business Operations Specialist

Office of the Attorney General via Phone:

Stefan Ritter, Senior Assistant Attorney General
 Bryan Web, Senior Assistant Attorney General
 Kelly Campanella, Assistant Attorney General

MINUTES OF SUBJECTS ACTED UPON:

Subject	Minutes
Meeting Called to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting called to order at 11:19 AM.
Executive Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel matters at 11:35 AM. <i>Motion made by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Cathey</i> <i>Carried 5-0</i> Commission moved to exit executive session at 12:12 PM <i>Motion made by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Jordan</i> <i>Carried 4-0</i>

Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission

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Subject	Minutes
	Commissioner Garrett left the meeting during Executive Session.
Authority to Hire and Terminate Employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission moved to assume the authority to hire and terminate employees from the Executive Secretary to the Commission. <i>Motion made by: Vice Chair Stringfellow</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Jordan</i> <i>Carried 4-0</i>
Denial of Late Fee Hardship Appeals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission motioned on 12 late fee hardship waiver appeal requests as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Constance C. Hobbs: Executive Secretary stated that the late fee waiver request was already approved. Chair Abernethy stated that the appeal was unnecessary. 2. Griffin Lotson: Executive Secretary stated that Mr. Lotson did not file the initial waiver request and went directly to the appeal to the Commission. Mr. Lotson was required to file a Personal Financial Disclosure report by September 13th and he filed it October 3rd. There is no grace period for Personal Financial Disclosure Reports. Mr. Lotson indicated he had technical difficulties filing the report; however, he could have filed the report by paper. Commission moved to contact Mr. Lotson and inform him of the process in that he needs to file his appeal first with the agency and should he want to appeal the Executive Secretary's decision he may do so. <i>Motion made by: Vice Chair Stringfellow</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Jordan</i> <i>Carried 4-0</i> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">3-9:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. David Earl Sapp 4. Walter Christopher Thomas 5. Greg L. Buie

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<p>Denial of Late Fee Hardship Appeals <i>continued</i></p>	<p>6. James Lamar Ray 7. Hazel Lee 8. Charles H. Lee 9. Lloyd Wesley Lee</p> <p>Executive Secretary stated that the Qualifying Officer for the City of Hoboken, Linda Henderson, has not put any information into the required Commission system regarding who has qualified or the outcomes of the elections for the city. The failure of the Qualifying Officer to enter this information into the Commission's system does not negate the filing responsibilities for those people that qualified.</p> <p>Each person requesting the waiver filed the report(s) late for the post mark was after the due date.</p> <p>Each late fee is \$125 and some of the individuals have more than one late fee.</p> <p>Commission motioned to waive each requested late fee of David Earl Sapp, Walter Christopher Thomas, Greg L. Buie, James Lamar Ray, Hazel Lee, Charles H. Lee, and Lloyd Wesley Lee once the City of Hoboken's filing officer enter the required information into the Commission's system.</p> <p><i>Motion made by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Jordan</i> <i>Carried 4-0</i></p> <p>10. Maretha Brown 11. Charles R. Freedman, and 12. Patricia Harris Crayton</p> <p>Commission motioned that Maretha Brown, Charles R. Freedman, and Patricia Harris Crayton be contacted and given two weeks to respond and file the necessary documents. If not then the requested waivers will be denied.</p>
<p>Denial of Late Fee Hardship</p>	<p><i>Motion made by: Chair Abernethy</i></p>

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Appeals <i>continued</i>	<i>Seconded by: Commissioner Jordan</i> <i>Carried 4-0</i> Commission confirmed that if the reports are filed the Executive Secretary has the authority to reduce the multiple late fees to a single fee.
Report of the Executive Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Executive Secretary discussed 2014 lobbyist season and the number of lobbyists that have renewed, new registrations and late fees collected.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ryan Splitlog, Assistant Director of Common Cause Georgia asked the Commission to meet more often.
Meeting Adjourned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Motion to adjourn meeting at 1:40 PM. <i>Motion made by: Vice Chair Stringfellow</i> <i>Seconded by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Carried 4-0</i>


Official Minutes Statement

The foregoing Minutes for the January 16, 2014 meeting of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission were approved and adopted by the Commission at the Commission's meeting on March 6, 2014.



Kevin Abernethy, Chair

3/6/14
Date



Holly LaBerge, Executive Secretary

3.6.14
Date

County of Fulton,
State of Georgia

Affidavit of Presiding Officer

**GEORGIA GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY
AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE COMMISSION**

Personally appeared before the undersigned officer, duly authorized to administer oaths, Kevin Abernethy, Chairperson of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission, (the "Commission"), who, being sworn, states the following under oath:

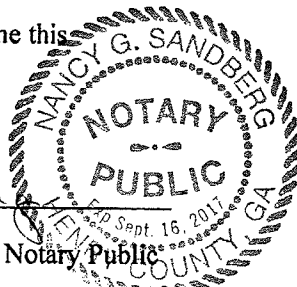
1.

I am the Chairman of the Commission. I am giving this Affidavit as required by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) to explain the closing to the public of a part of a meeting of the Commission. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit.

2.

On January 16, 2014, the Commission met in an open meeting at the Floyd Building in Atlanta, and I presided. By a vote of 5 to 0, the Commission closed a portion of its meeting to the public in order to discuss and deliberate upon pending litigation. No other topic was discussed during the closed portion, over which I presided. The meeting was closed in accord with the specific exception to open meetings under O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(6) ("Meetings when discussing or deliberating upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee ...").

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
6th day of March, 2014.



Nancy G. Sandberg
Notary Signature
Nancy G. Sandberg, Notary Public
Notary Print Name
My Commission expires Sept. 16, 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Abernethy".

Kevin Abernethy, Chair
Georgia Government Transparency and
Campaign Finance Commission