

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

Minutes of Commission Meeting

Regular Meeting | Thursday, March 6, 2014 | 10:00 AM

Location: 200 Piedmont Ave. SE Suite 1514 C,
15th Floor, West Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

PRESENT:

Commission Members:

Kevin Abernethy, Chair
Dennis Cathey, Commission Member
R. Lawton Jordan III, Commission Member

Commission Staff:

Holly LaBerge, Executive Director
Nancy Sandberg, Legal Administrative Assistant

Commission Members via Phone:

Hillary Stringfellow, Vice Chair
Heath Garrett, Commission Member

Office of the Attorney General:

Stefan Ritter, Senior Assistant Attorney General

SUMMARY OF SUBJECTS ACTED UPON:

Subject	Minutes
Meeting Called to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meeting was called to order at 10:09 AM
Opening Comments of the Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chair identified all members present and those members present via phone.Motion and approved to amend the Agenda to include Personnel in Executive Session and to include two additional items to the Agenda:<ol style="list-style-type: none">State Mutual Insurance and Admiral Life Insurance cases.Doug Chalmers on matter from 2009 ruling that conflicts with the Act concerning PAC & party contributions not counting towards the \$25,000 threshold.<p><i>Motion made by: Chair Abernethy Seconded by: Commissioner Cathey Carried: 4-0</i></p>

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Executive Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission moved to enter into Executive Session at 10:11 AM to discuss pending litigation and personnel. <i>Motion made by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Cathey</i> <i>Carried: 4-0</i> • Commissioner Jordan arrived during Executive Session. • Commission moved to exit Executive Session at 10:29 AM. <i>Motion made by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Jordan</i> <i>Carried: 5-0</i>
Items voted on by the Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motioned and approved to adopt as a Consent to Dismiss without Prejudice the ongoing investigation at this time against State Mutual and Admiral Life Insurance. <i>Motion made by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Cathey</i> <i>Carried: 5-0</i> • Addressed and discussed 2009 ruling that is in conflict with the Act in relation to PAC's and party contribution to candidates not counting towards the \$25,000 threshold. Chair decided to have Jonathan Hawkins (outside counsel) craft the language to clarify the rules, as he is doing for the rest of the rules. • Motioned and approved meeting minutes of November 13, 2013, December 19, 2013, January 16, 2014, January 28, 2014 and February 14, 2014. <i>Motion made by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Jordan</i> <i>Carried: 5-0</i>

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Subject	Minutes
Rule Making Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed Rule Making procedures: Chair stated that there does not need to be a case to request an update of the rules. Jonathan Hawkins will continue to compare existing rules with the Act and update the rules including the 17 questions that have been brought up for clarification with first draft posted on the website for 60 days, then open to public comment for 60 days, afterward coming back to the Commissioners to consider.
Denial of Late Fee Hardship Appeals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denial of Late Fee Hardship Waiver Appeal was heard by the Commissioners on: Joe Cook: Executive Secretary stated that the late fee waiver had been previously reduced twice. Motioned and approved to lower and asses the late fee penalty to a total of \$300 for all reports. <i>Motion made by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Cathey</i> <i>Carried: 5-0</i>
Campaign Contribution Limit Adjustment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed use of Consumer Price Index in setting Campaign Contribution Limits. Chair motioned that campaign contribution limits are to be wrapped into discussion and update of rules with the understanding of the need to update state wide and legislative limits at the same time. <i>Motion made by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Cathey</i> <i>Carried: 5-0</i>
Executive Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FY 14A and FY15 budget and legislation update. Four open positions have been posted to our website and are being posted through State Accounting Office and to the State jobs website. Registered over 1,000 lobbyist since January 1st. There are 169 complaints pending in the office.
Meeting Adjourned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to adjourn meeting at 11:15 AM. <i>Motion made by: Chairman Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Jordan</i> <i>Carried: 5-0</i>

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Official Minutes Statement

The foregoing Minutes for the March 6, 2014 meeting of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission were approved and adopted by the Commission at the Commission's meeting on September 30, 2014.



Hillary Stringfellow, Chair

9.30.14

Date

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 a part of a meeting of the Commission. I have personal knowledge of the fact stated in this Affidavit.

2.

On March 6, 2014, the Commission met in an open meeting at the Floyd Building in Atlanta and I presided. By a vote of 4 to 0, the Commission closed a portion of its meeting to the public in order to discuss and deliberate upon personnel and 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

12th day of SEPTEMBER, 2014.

Cynthia P. Tabor

Notary Signature

CYNTHIA P. TABOR, Notary Public
Notary Print Name

My Commission expires 11-6-2017

Kevin Abernethy

Kevin Abernethy, Chair
Georgia Government Transparency and
Campaign Finance Commission

