

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

Teleconference Meeting | Tuesday, August 19, 2014 | 10:00 AM

Location: 200 Piedmont Ave. SE Suite 1402,
14th Floor, West Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

PRESENT:

Commission Members via phone:

Hillary Stringfellow, Vice Chair
Dennis Cathey, Commission Member
R. Lawton Jordan III, Commission Member
Mary Paige Adams, Commission Member

Commission Staff:

Holly LaBerge, Executive Director
Bethany Whetzel, Staff Attorney
Robert Lane, Staff Attorney
Kitty Farias, Confidential Secretary
Nancy Sandberg, Legal Administrative Assistant

Commission Members Absent:

Heath Garrett, Commission Member

Office of the Attorney General via phone:

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

SUMMARY OF SUBJECTS ACTED UPON:

Subject	Summary
Meeting Called to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Hillary Stringfellow, Vice Chair.
Opening Comments of the Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vice Chair identified all members present via phone and welcomed all the commissioners and staff.Vice Chair acknowledged attending public
Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vice Chair opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.It was motioned and seconded to appoint Hillary Stringfellow as the new Chair <i>Motion made by: Commissioner Adams</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Cathey</i> <i>Carried: 3 to 0</i>It was moved and seconded to appoint R. Lawton Jordan III as the new Vice Chair. <i>Motion made by: Chair Stringfellow</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Cathey</i> <i>Carried: 3 to 0</i>

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Subject	Summary
Welcome Mary Paige Adams as a new Commission Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair welcomed and gave a brief introduction of new Commission member Mary Paige Adams.
Welcome Bethany Whetzel and Robert Lane as Staff Attorneys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair welcomed the two new staff attorneys, who started on July 1st. Each attorney gave a brief description of their backgrounds and qualifications.
Welcome of New Staff Attorneys <i>Continued</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holly LaBerge and each of the attorneys spoke to the progress that each has made since coming on board on complaint cases, advisory opinions and rules, civil penalty matrix in relation to complaints, cases that have been found to have technical defects, the cases that have or will be Administratively Dismissed and those in process of being presented as Consent Orders and Compliance Orders.
Resolution for Kevin Abernethy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion was made to resolve and pass the resolution recognizing Kevin Abernethy's contributions to the Commission during his four year term of office, two of which were as Chair. <i>Motion made by: Commissioner Jordan</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Adams</i> <i>Carried: 4 to 0</i> Holly read the resolution.
Meeting Schedule for remainder of 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion was opened. It was decided that the next meeting would be held late September with another to follow in mid-November for 2014. The dates will be determined after consulting the Commissioner's, attorneys and commission staff's calendars. The 2015 meetings were suggested to be quarterly at the end of March, June, September and November.
Comments from the Commissioners:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair motioned and it was approved to modify the agenda to take comments from the Commission members and add an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. <i>Motion made by: Chair Stringfellow</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Jordan</i> <i>Carried: 4 to 0</i> Commissioner Lawton commented on the ongoing audit, stating that they have not received any information on the results. The intent of the audit was two-fold: to investigate the validity of internal criticism and to validate good work with suggestions for improvement.

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Comments from the Public:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The floor was open for public comments. There were no public comments.
Executive Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A motion was made and approved to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation and advice of counsel. <i>Motion made by: Commissioner Jordan</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Adams</i> <i>Carried: 4 to 0</i> Executive session was entered into at 10:28 AM Executive session was closed at 10:37 AM Commissioner Cathey exited the meeting at 10:44 AM A motion was made and approved to move back into open session of the Commission meeting at 10:52 AM <i>Motion made by: Chair Stringfellow</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Adams</i> <i>Carried: 3 to 0</i>
Meeting Adjourned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:54 AM <i>Motion made by: Commissioner Jordan</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Adams</i> <i>Carried: 3 to 0</i>

Official Minutes Statement

The foregoing Minutes for the August 19, 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, Hillary Stringfellow, Chairperson of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission (the "Commission"), who, being sworn, states the following under oath:

1.

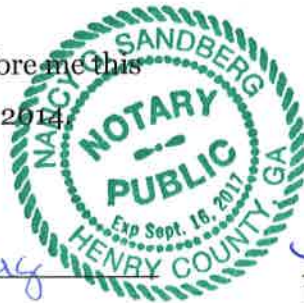
I am the Chairman of the Commission. I am giving this Affidavit as required by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) to explain the closing to the public a part of a meeting of the Commission. I have personal knowledge of the fact stated in this Affidavit.

2.

On August 19, 2014, the Commission met in an open meeting via teleconference 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 pending litigation and advice of counsel. 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

2 day of September, 2014.



Nancy G. Sandberg
Notary Signature

Nancy G. Sandberg, Notary Public
Notary Print Name

My Commission expires Sept. 16, 2017

Hillary Stringfellow
Hillary Stringfellow, Chair
Georgia Government Transparency and
Campaign Finance Commission