

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 | Friday, November 16, 2012 | 9:30 AM

Minutes of Commission Meeting

Location: Paul D. Coverdell Legislation Office Building, Room 515, 18 Capitol Square SW, Atlanta, GA 30334

PRESENT:

Commission Members:

Kevin Abernethy, Chair
Hillary Stringfellow, Vice Chair (via telephone)
Kent Alexander, Commission Member
Heath Garrett, Commission Member

Commission Members Absent:

Dennis Cathey, Commission Member

Commission Staff Present:

Holly LaBerge, Executive Secretary
Elisabeth Murray-Oberteiu, Staff Attorney

Office of the Attorney General Staff Present:

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

SUMMARY OF SUBJECTS ACTED UPON:

Subject	Summary
Meeting Called to Order	Meeting called to order at 9:15 AM.
Commission Meeting Minutes	Commission moved and approved Commission Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2012. <i>Motion made by: Commissioner Alexander</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Garrett</i> <i>Carried 4-0</i>
Commission Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kevin Abernethy was elected Chair for the term of December 16, 2012 to December 15, 2013. <i>Motion made to elect Kevin Abernethy</i> <i>by: Commissioner Garrett</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Alexander</i> <i>Carried 3-0 Abstained: Chair Abernethy</i>Hillary Stringfellow was elected Vice Chair for the term of December 16, 2012 to December 15, 2013. <i>Motion made to elect Hillary Stringfellow</i> <i>by: Commissioner Alexander</i> <i>Seconded by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Carried 3-0 Abstained: Vice Chair Stringfellow</i>

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Advisory Opinions	<p>The following Advisory Opinions were adopted by the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012-01 was amended and approved <i>Motion made to adopt recommendations by internal and external counsel and approve amended opinion</i> <i>by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Garrett</i> <i>Carried 4-0</i> • 2012-02 was amended and approved <i>Motion made to adopt recommendations by Commissioner Alexander</i> <i>by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Garrett</i> <i>Carried 4-0</i> • <i>Motion made to adopt amended opinion by</i> <i>by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Alexander</i> <i>Carried 4-0</i> • 2012-03 and 2012-04 were amended and approved <i>Motion made to adopt recommendations</i> <i>by: Commissioner Garrett</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Alexander</i> <i>Carried 4-0</i> • <i>Motion made to adopt amended opinions by</i> <i>by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Garrett</i> <i>Carried 4-0</i> • 2012-04 and 2012-05 were approved <i>Motion made to adopt opinions</i> <i>by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Alexander</i> <i>Carried 4-0</i>
Late Fee Appeals	<p>The following late fee appeals were heard by the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josh Belinfante <i>Motion made to grant appeal, fine waived</i> <i>by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Garrett</i> <i>Carried 4-0</i> • Lee A. Fleck <i>Motion made to deny appeal</i> <i>by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Alexander</i> <i>Carried 4-0</i>

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Subject	Summary
Late Fee Appeals continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Lowery <i>Motion made to deny appeal by: Chair Abernethy Seconded by: Commissioner Alexander Carried 4-0</i> • Melanie S. McNeil <i>Motion made to reduce late fee to \$25.00 by: Chair Abernethy Seconded by: Commissioner Alexander Carried 4-0</i> • Jean C. McRae <i>Motion made to reduce late fee to \$25.00 per report by: Chair Abernethy Seconded by: Commissioner Alexander Carried 4-0</i> • Cheryl A. Tucker <i>Motion made to reduce late fee to \$25.00 by: Chair Abernethy Seconded by: Commissioner Alexander Carried 4-0</i> • Brenda J. McNair <i>Motion made to reduce late fee to \$25.00 per report by: Chair Abernethy Seconded by: Commissioner Alexander Carried 4-0</i>
Order Request	<p>Commission accepted the motion to deny 2013 renewal of registration for lobbyists with unpaid fees, fines and/or unfiled reports. <i>Motion made by: Chair Abernethy Seconded by: Commissioner Alexander Carried 4-0</i></p>
Award of Attorney Fees Request	<p>Commission voted to dismiss the request for attorney fees by the Respondent in case numbers 2011-0008, 2011-0009 and 2011-0011. <i>Motion made by: Chair Abernethy Seconded by: Commissioner Alexander Carried 2-1 Nay: Commissioner Garrett</i></p> <p>Commissioner Alexander pointed out that Vice Chair Stringfellow, who was present via telephone, connection was lost and her vote was not registered. Vice Chair Stringfellow dialed back into the meeting.</p>

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Award of Attorney Fees Request continued	Chair Abernethy moved again to dismiss the pending motions for attorney fees against Mr. Anderson in case numbers 2011-0008, 2011-0009 and 2011-0011. <i>Motion made by: Chair Abernethy</i> <i>Seconded by: Commissioner Alexander</i> <i>Carried 3-1 Nay: Commissioner Garrett</i>
Vice Chair Hillary Stringfellow left the meeting.	
Report of the Executive Secretary	The Executive Secretary report to the Commission on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System upgrades to be conducted from midnight December 21, 2012 through 6:00 AM December 26, 2012. • Updated the Commission on budget.
Report of the System Administrator	System Administrator discussed the agency's upgrade to virtual servers that will take place between midnight December 21, 2012 through 6:00 AM December 26, 2012.
Meeting Adjourned	Meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Official Minutes Statement

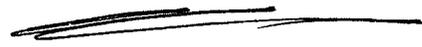
The foregoing Minutes for the November 16, 2012 meeting of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission were approved and adopted by the Commission at the Commission's meeting on April 24, 2013.



 Kevin Abernethy, Chair

4/24/13

 Date



 Holly LaBerge, Executive Secretary

4.24.13

 Date