

**MINUTES**  
**DeKalb County Board of Ethics**  
**December 6, 2004**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Killingsworth, Chair  
Aubrey Villines, Vice-Chair  
Jule Lassiter, Secretary  
Teri Thompson  
Bryan Smith  
Stanley Baum  
Veronica Higgins

OTHERS PRESENT: Dwight Thomas, Esq. (Attorney for Vernon Jones, Chief  
Executive Officer, DeKalb County)  
Bob Wilson, Esq. (Attorney for Robert Brown, Jr.,  
Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fulton-  
DeKalb County Hospital Authority)  
Debra Golymbieski (Attorney for Robert Brown)  
Ron Marshall (Complainant)  
George Anderson (Complainant)  
Jennifer Parker (Crossroads News)  
Walter Jones (Morris News Service)  
Belinda Swain  
Mary Swint  
Steve Carr  
Gwen Marshall  
John Steinichen  
Doug Denton  
Arleen Harris

**CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Pat Killingsworth, Chair of the Board of Ethics, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Chair asked for any corrections or modifications to the minutes. After no corrections or modifications were raised, the minutes were unanimously approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion for Reconsideration Regarding the Dismissal of Complaints Against Brown and Jones due to Change in Meeting Dates**

On November 10, 2004, the Board convened to hear the complaints lodged against Brown and Jones. None of the complainants appeared. Legal representatives for Brown and Jones were present and prepared to go forward with the hearing. Subsequently, the

complainants maintained that they were given incorrect information regarding the hearing date. Chairwoman Pat Killingsworth agreed and noted that complainants were not properly notified. Board Member Smith raised the Motion to Reconsider the dismissal. Four Board members agreed; one Board member opposed (Teri Thompson). The Motion of Reconsideration was granted.

**Preliminary Hearing: Complaint filed against Brown and Jones**

George Anderson, Complainant, stated that Brown and Jones violated the Code of Ethics in the following manner:

- Brown and Jones have allowed improper contractors (including but not limited to Charles Walker) to do business with Grady Hospital;
- Brown and Jones have awarded contracts to friends, 'cronies' and those who made campaign contributions to Jones;
- Brown and Jones have engaged in improper witness tampering and the destruction of evidence;
- Brown served on a committee that made payments to Jones' campaign.

Anderson stressed that an investigation is needed to review the extent of illegal activity regarding Brown and Jones. Several Board Members stated that the Board is not equipped, nor was it ever intended or created, to conduct criminal investigations.

Chairwoman Killingsworth noted that the complainants filed and submitted new documents totaling over two hundred (200) pages to support their position. None of the voluminous work was ever served on opposing counsel or the Board *prior* to the instant meeting. In addition, *during* the meeting, more documents, totaling over thirty (30) pages, were circulated to opposing counsel and the Board. Attorney Wilson noted that complaint previously filed on October 27, 2004, no longer matched the issues raised in either the 200+ page material, nor the material that was circulated during the meeting.

Chairwoman Killingsworth raised the question of whether there is a direct connection of the alleged illegal activity at Grady Hospital to Jones. According to Attorney Thomas, former Commissioner Manual Maloof, and not Jones, appointed Brown to his current position. However, Anderson maintains that he is prepared to present witnesses and other evidence to support his position that Brown and Jones were fully aware of the misdeeds at Grady Hospital.

Board Member Villines moved to continue the preliminary hearing due to the dissemination of new information, and that no new material be added before the next scheduled meeting (January 24, 2005). The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Thomas requested that the Board refrain from any *ex parte* communications with either party.

*Amend:*

) There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Teri Thompson, Secretary  
DeKalb County Board of Ethics