Prepared by:
Kristin Rodgers, Ethics Administrator
Edited by:
Elisa Murphy, Ethics Officer

DeKalb County GEORGIA | Board of Ethics of DeKalb County

**DeKalb County Board of Ethics**
**Regular Meeting**
Thursday, April 17, 2025
6:00 p.m.
178 Sams Street

**Minutes**

**Board Members Present:**
Thomas Clements, Served as Acting Chair
James Scott Mathews, Secretary
George Ference
Rosa Waymon

**Alternate Members Present**
Cathea Simelton-Treminio, elevated to voting Board Member
Jason Cecil

**Board Staff Present:**
Elisa Murphy, Ethics Officer
Kristin Rodgers, Ethics Administrator
Maiysha Rashad, Counsel

**County Technology Personnel Present:**
DeKalb IT/DCTV

**Agenda**

## I. Call to Order

Ethics Board Member Clements called the public meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Board Member Clements elevated Alternate Board Member Cathea Simelton-Treminio to voting Board Member to make a quorum of four.

## II. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Board Member Ference moved to adopt the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of April 17, 2025, with the amendment to Item III. C. to read "Advisory Opinion(s)". Board Member Waymon seconded the motion. Board Chair Dallas, Vice Chair Wright, Secretary Mathews, and Alternate Board Member Jason Cecil were absent from the meeting. Board Member Mathews was absent from the vote. The motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

Prepared by:
Kristin Rodgers, Ethics Administrator
Edited by:
Elisa Murphy, Ethics Officer

## III. Administrative Items

*A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 20, 2025*

Motion: Board Member Ference moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 20, 2025. Board Member Waymon seconded the motion. Board Chair Dallas, Vice Chair Wright, Secretary Mathews, and Alternate Board Member Jason Cecil were absent from the meeting. Board Member Mathews was absent from the vote. The motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

*B. Ethics Officer's Monthly Report*

Ethics Officer Murphy provided a monthly report of the Ethics Office.

*C. Advisory Opinion(s)*

Ethics Officer Murphy presented three Advisory Opinion requests from Commissioner Michelle Long Spears.

- **Advisory Opinion Request #1 - Partnership for Southern Equity**
  Board Members Clements, Waymon, and Simelton-Treminio requested the Ethics Officer to ask in writing additional follow-up questions from the Board of Ethics to Commissioner Michelle Long Spears before approval of the opinion.

- **Advisory Opinion Request #2 - Pet Sitter/Animal Initiative**
  Motion: Board Member Cathea Simelton-Treminio moved to direct General Counsel to write an Advisory Opinion within 90 days of April 3, 2025. Board Member Ference seconded the motion. Board Chair Dallas and Vice Chair Wright were absent from the meeting. Board Member Mathews was absent from the vote. The motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

- **Advisory Opinion Request #3 - Callanwolde Fine Arts Center Board**
  Motion: Board Member Ference moved to direct General Counsel to write an Advisory Opinion from General Counsel. The Ethics Officer will ask the Commissioner Long Spears in writing to answer the Board's questions to provide clarity and more specificity that was reflected in the letter to former Commissioner Jeff Raider. Board Member Mathews seconded the motion. Board Chair Dallas and Vice Chair Wright were absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

## IV. Preliminary Case

*A. Sammy Gilstrap v. Naomi Verelien*

Motion: Board Member Ference moved to dismiss this complaint. Board Member Waymon seconded the motion. Board Chair Dallas and Vice Chair Wright were absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

## V. Public Comments

Prepared by:
Kristin Rodgers, Ethics Administrator
Edited by:
Elisa Murphy, Ethics Officer

By Stephen Binney of Clarkston, GA

## VI. Comments from the Board of Ethics

Board Members Ference and Clements made comments.

## VII. Executive Session to Discuss Pending Litigation and Personnel Issues

*A. Motion to Convene an Executive Session*

Motion: Board Member Mathews moved to convene an Executive Session. Board Member Ference seconded the motion. Board Chair Dallas and Vice Chair Wright were absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

*B. Motion to Adjourn an Executive Session*

Motion: Board Member Waymon moved to adjourn the Executive Session. Board Member Mathews seconded the motion. Board Chair Dallas and Vice Chair Wright were absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

*C. Motion to Approve the Executive Session Affidavit*

Motion: Board Member Ference moved to approve the Executive Session Affidavit. Board Member Waymon seconded the motion. Board Chair Dallas and Vice Chair Wright were absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

## VIII. Announcement of Next Regular Meeting Date of Thursday, May 15, 2025

## IX. Adjournment

Motion: Board Member Clements moved to adjourn the April 17, 2025, Board of Ethics Regular Meeting at 7:22 p.m. Board Chair Dallas and Vice Chair Wright were absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

Approved:

Robert J. Dallas — 05/15/2025

Chair — Date