# **Report of Special Investigators**



"All government, of right, originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole. Public officers are the trustees and servants of the people and are at all times amenable to them." Georgia Constitution Article I, Section II, Paragraph I.

**DeKalb County Special Investigators:** 

Michael J. Bowers

Richard L. Hyde

**September 30, 2015** 

This document is only an overview of some of our findings up to the date this assignment was terminated by Interim Chief Executive Officer Lee N. May, Jr., on August 6, 2015. It is not the "final report" as envisioned when we were retained and does not include every document, detail or fact with regard to this inquiry.

All interview summaries and other related material will be made available to the Director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Appalling corruption and a stunning absence of leadership in the DeKalb County government are a disgrace to its citizens and an embarrassment to our state. A pattern of corrosive and widespread misconduct has destroyed public confidence in the integrity of the governing authority.

We found that many elected officials fail to understand or follow the simple dictate of the Georgia Constitution: All government, of right, originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole. Public officers are the trustees and servants of the people and are at all times amenable to them. [Georgia Constitution, 1983, Article 1, Section 2, Paragraph 1]. If the public officers who have violated the community's trust are truly concerned about the future of DeKalb County, they will resign from office today.

We began this inquiry as directed by Executive Orders of Interim Chief Executive OfficerLee N. May, Jr., appointing us as "independent" Special Investigators to "help restore the public's trust" in county government. He instructed us to "identify the county's risk exposure for waste, fraud and abuse, and proactively identify and investigate instances of wrongdoing." [Exhibit A].

Our instructions were to go well beyond an attempt to uncover only criminal wrongdoing that might be of interest to prosecutors. Instead, our mission was to find and expose a much broader range of misconduct than that which would rise to the level of prosecutable criminal charges.Mr. May said our inquirywas to also "determine the extent of waste and abuse in county government and then to make specific findings and recommendations to prevent further wrongdoing."

There was no deadline for the report of our findings. Instead, we were to conduct this investigation for "not less than 120 days, subject to extensions by the Chief Executive Officer

necessitated by the findings of the Special Investigators."We were to "review all aspects of county government."

Mr. May publicly promised that we would have "unfettered access" to all county employees and records. We did not. The shocking deceit of Mr. May, to us and the public, with his fanfare that heralded an "independent investigation" is troubling.

Within the first few days we encountered obstructions and obstacles that delayed and impeded the truth-seeking process. It soon became clear that Mr. May and others wanted this investigation to be neither independent nor thorough. This interference hindered our work.

For example, early on, Mr. May suggested to Mr. Bowers that he should prevent Mr. Hyde from conducting an interview with Mr. Morris Williams, a high-level county official who abruptly retired shortly after we were hired. This became more significant when we discovered that Mr. May borrowed money from a subordinate, Mr. Williams. The loanMr. May received from Mr. Morris Williams is in violation of the county Organizational Act, which states that no member of the county governing authority shall directly or indirectly receive a loan for himself if he recently has been, or is now, involved in, any official act or action directly affecting the lender. [See Org.Act Sec.22A. (c)(2)a.(ii)]. The penalty for that offense includes removal from office.

In at least two instances,Mr. May and others conspired to actively block our efforts to obtain public records from county offices. For example, we requested records from the district

The request that we investigate every department was later reduced by Mr. May to cut the costs of this inquiry.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>We were unable to determine if the money loaned was connected to a \$4000 check that was paid to either Mr. May or Mr. Morris Williams by a county vendor. Further information will be provided to the GBI.

attorney and the sheriff that were needed to complete our examination of the Purchasing Department.

While the sheriff provided financial records for one month (March 2015), the district attorney, Robert James, in clear violation of the Georgia Open Records Act, flatly refused to even respond to our letters requesting documents that could have explained his questionable spending. Instead, he complained to Mr. May about our request. Mr. May then wrote a letter to James stating that our request was "beyond the scope of the Executive Order." [Exhibit B]. It was not.

Whatever confidence we had in Mr. May ended when we received, through the news media, his "Dear Robert" apology written to the district attorney. That letter also gave the appearance that Mr. May was attempting to help Mr. James cover-up misconduct. The law requires these public records, indicating how funds were spent by Mr. James, to be available for inspection at all times to anyone. As a result of Mr. May's interference, and Mr. James' refusal to follow the law, we were unable to determine if expenses incurred by the district attorney were appropriate or legal.<sup>3</sup>

Mr. May and his staff claimed that many records we needed were "missing." When we asked his staff for records of former county employees and officials, we were told "[T]hey don't work here anymore. We don't have their records. They may have taken [the records] with them." The DeKalb County Records Retention Policy and state law require that accounting records be kept five years and travel records must be kept at least four years.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> James said publicly that he provided the records we wanted to the GBI. He claimed that "I'm just not going to participate in an investigation I don't agree with." This prevented us from determining if his spending was lawful. His actions made it appear that he sent his records to the GBI to prevent them from being subject to public inspection in accordance with the Open Records Act.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> We never received supporting records or other documents from many Commission Members, Mr. May, and the county's public information officer.

We met with Mr. May and his Chief of Staff, Mr. Edmond Richardson, on August 5, 2015, and agreed that the "final report" would be delivered to Mr. May, the Board of Commissioners ("BOC") and the public on October 6, 2015, at the same time. The next day, Mr. May sent us a letter saying our report was now due on August 26, 2015. [Exhibit C].

May's ham-handedattempt to fabricate a deadline in order for him to receive our findings some 41 days before the public and the BOC directly contradicts his many claims that we would have independence and that neither he, nor anyone else, would see the report before it was completed. We were very clear with Mr. May that this investigation could not be completed by his new "deadline" due to many other matters we needed to conclude. He terminated this investigation, while knowing there were hundreds of other interviews to conduct and thousands more documents to review.

# THE INDICTMENT OF LUNDSTEN<sup>5</sup>

The Executive Orders directed us to ensure that all county departments were being appropriately managed and operated. We began with the Finance Department, which administers the fiscal affairs of DeKalb County government and directs the activities of six subordinate divisions. The director of the department serves as the County's chief financial officer and reports directly to the CEO and the BOC. She can only be terminated, for cause, by an affirmative vote of five members of the BOC.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>For the purposes of our identifying specific expenditures of public funds that warrant further analysis, instead of our own standard of review, we are using the Lundsten indictment to determine what constitutes probable cause to believe that a crime has occurred. We state no opinion as to the appropriateness or wisdom of indicting Mr. Lundsten.

Our initial plan in evaluating the Finance Department was to conduct a survey of purchasing by randomly selecting a few records from each county department. However, that changed after April 16, 2015, with the indictment of Robert Lundsten, a former executive assistant to DeKalbDistrict One Commissioner Elaine Boyer. [Exhibit D].

Mr. Lundsten was charged with nine felonies: 6 counts of theft by taking and 3 counts of making a false statement. While the total dollar amount of the alleged thefts is not listed in the indictment, the false statement counts are based on what Mr. Lundsten is said to have written on a receipt from a grocery store for the purchase of "drinks and office supplies" and two United Parcel Service receipts totaling \$72. [*The Crier*, Dick Williams, 4/21/15] Other sources told us that the total amount of these alleged thefts was less than \$300.

Using the indictment of Mr. Lundsten as the measure for what is considered by the DeKalb County District Attorney and Grand Juryto be a theft of government funds and false statements by a public official or employee, we expanded our review to include records of all official spending. This greatly increased the amount of time and the number of documents we needed to obtain and evaluate to complete a thoroughassessment. We strongly believe that to only identify a few examples from each department of what appeared to be illegal or improper spending by employees and officials would have been misleading, unfair and wrong. In light of the Lundsten indictment, we either had to look at all the expenditures or none of them.<sup>6</sup>

It is clear from a review of the records thatmore analysis is needed to determine if these expenses were legally spent for legitimate county business. We reviewed some 2,257 pages of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Due to the high volume of questionable spending found, we recommended that Mr. May suspend all non-emergency purchases until this investigation was concluded and he did so on June 8, 2015.

transactions, over 50,000 individual purchases and related documents, and found thousands of questionable charges.

#### **ILLEGAL GRATUTIES**

According to the Georgia Supreme Court, for a county official to legally spend public funds, in addition to a budget allocation, the expenditure must be within the sphere of his or her legally delegated powers. Griffies v. Coweta County, 272 Ga. 506, 509 (2000) (Superior court clerk could spend \$368.89 on bottled water for her employees because tap waterwas green, slimy and smelled.). In that case the clerk spent a miscellaneous budget line item for the water over a two year period. The Supreme Court concluded that the clerk "did not abuse her discretion in determining that the purchase of drinking water was necessary to avoid nuisance problems for the employees and to provide potable, nuisance-free drinking water for them."

In another case, Mr. Gerald Blaney, the Gwinnett County Solicitor-General, sought county funds to pay his attorney fees in personal litigation after he had been repeatedly told that he was not covered by the county indemnification plan. See <u>Gwinnett County v. Blaney</u>, 275 Ga. 606 (2002). He paid his attorney fees with official and budgeted funds, but the Supreme Court concluded the expenditure was not "within the sphere of [the officer's] legally delegated powers." The Court ruled that Blaney had not shown the express, implied or inherent power that he had as solicitor to hire his own lawyer for the litigation in question.

The question for the expenditures we reviewed that were made by DeKalb County officials or employees is: What was the "sphere of the official's legally delegated powers?" The Griffies and Blaney cases show that there are limits to what public officials can spend. These spending limits, however, are not new. The prohibition against gifts made by public officials has been in the Georgia Constitution since at least 1877. There is no authority for a member of the

BOC, or a county employee, to make charitable contributions using government funds. We were unable to determine if any of the donations of county funds to charities were claimed as deductions by those officials on their personal federal or state income tax returns. However, tax receipts were requested by some individual commission members.

Regardless of the charitable or worthwhile nature of the recipients or their undertakings, Georgia courts have strictly construedlaws that prohibit gifts of government property. See, e.g. The Garden Club of Ga., Inc., v. Shackleford, 266 Ga.24 (1995) (Ga.DOT program of freely permitting trimming of trees and vegetation to make advertising signs on private property more visible was an impermissible gratuity). And nine years ago, the Courtruled that, for the purposes of interpreting Georgia's constitutional prohibition against a government granting gratuities, "gratuity" meant "something given freely or without recompense; a gift." Rabun County v. Mountain Creek Estates, LLC, 280 Ga. 855, 859 (2006).

Several official opinions of the Georgia Attorney General over the last 67 yearsalso showit is clear that the law against gratuities continues to be strictly construed:

- Opinion of Attorney General 1948-49 payments to former chancellor of the university system and widow of budget director prohibited (AG Cook);
- Op. Atty. Gen. 1958-59 giving public school property to private individual prohibited (AG Cook);
- Op. Atty. Gen. 1963-65 maintaining private property prohibited (AG Cook);
- Op. Atty. Gen. 1967-450 retroactive pay raises prohibited (AG Bolton);

- Op. Atty. Gen. 1967-418 provision of office space and telephone service to private credit union prohibited (AG Bolton);
- Op. Atty. Gen. 1971-128 contributions to Ducks Unlimited prohibited (AG Bolton);
- Op. Atty. Gen. 1992-1 payment of entertainment expenses prohibited (AG Bowers);
- Op. Atty. Gen. 1997-6 payments to Paralympic organizing committee prohibited (AG Bowers);
- Op. Atty. Gen. 2004-3 flights of state aircraft only for official business even if state officials were to reimburse for personal use (AG Baker).

There is no basis in Georgia law to interpret the gratuities clause any less rigidly today than it has been applied over the last half-century. It is argued by some that the gratuities clause should not be applied so strictly, such as employee awards. There is some validity to that argument, depending on how the awards are structured. If an award is made solely to recognize employee performance, and the program existed before the award is made so as not to be a retroactive payment, theaward would be lawful.[Op. Atty. Gen. 1973-76; Op. Atty. Gen. 1971-184.].If, however, a cruise to the Bahamas is "won" by drawing a name from a jar, as was done at the DeKalb County Annual Customer Service Recognition Program in April of 2014, it can be nothing but an illegal gratuity. Chance cannot be the basis of the award. It must be merit in the workplace alone.

Section 9 of the DeKalb Organization Act sets out the powers and duties of the BOCand does not provide any legal authority for individual commission members to act on their own. And long-standing Georgia case law on the legal authority of cities and counties is clear:

"...the well-established general rule that counties and municipal corporations can exercise only such powers as are conferred on them by law, and a grant of power to such corporations must be strictly construed: and such a corporation can exercise no powers except such as are expressly given or are necessarily implied from express grant of other powers, and if there is a reasonable doubt of the existence of a particular power, the doubt is to be resolved in the negative." Beazley v. DeKalb County, 210 Ga. 41, 43 (1953) (Citations omitted).

When the above citation, along with the lack of specific legal authority for individual spending by Commissioners and employees is considered, much of the immense sums spent in recent years by DeKalb County officials and employees are illegal. Most of the spending we reviewed appears to have been for gifts and services or goods that could not have been lawfullypurchased using government funds.

#### SPECIFIC IMPROPER SPENDING

As Mr. May properly suggested, one of the first things we did was to ask him for various records with regard to his spending as both the elected Commissioner for District 5, and as the appointed Interim Chief Executive Officer. After our review of those documents, we met with Mr. May to discuss some of his expenses and other areas of concern. Among other things, we questionedhis purchase of a movie (\$36.45) and a spa treatment (\$222.71) during hisDecember, 2014, stay at the Grand Wailea Waldorf Astoria Hotel and Spa in Hawaii. [Exhibit E].Mr. May

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>"Legal authority" in this context means a specific grant of power or a duty in the state Constitution, the Organizational Act or in the Official Code of Georgia, permitting a county government actor to spend money.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>See <u>Bryan County v. Yates Paving and Grading Company, Inc.</u>, 251 Ga. App. 441 (2001), for the continuing vitality of the <u>Beazley</u>decision.

claimed he had reimbursed the county for the purchase of a movie and spa treatment and that he would provide documentation showing that he had personally paid for those charges. He did not.

Other examples of questionable spending by Mr. May include the following:

<b>Organization</b>	Approximate Date	Amount
Ray of Hope Christian Church	March 3, 2008	\$200
The Collaborative Firm, LLC <sup>9</sup>	June 18, 2009	\$6,000
YMCA South DeKalb	September 14, 2009	\$1,614
Best Buy, Lithonia, GA	April 13, 2012	\$74
ASI System Integration (x3)	2012 - 2013	\$9,133
Alliance for Innovation	August 22, 2012	\$120
Bloomstoday	November 23, 2013	\$125
CGS TKTS Tours, New York, NY	December 5, 2013	\$211
Affinia Manhattan, NY	December, 2013	\$1,039
Waldorf Hotel, New Orleans	January 19, 2014	\$1,583
Profile Marketing & Public Relations	Unknown	\$4,300
Edible Arrangements	August 15, 2013	\$46
FTD Blooms Today	November 23, 2013	\$125
Bada Bings! Food & Fun	December 21, 2013	\$893

In addition to Mr. May, we have identified questionable spending from others, with little or no explanation given to the Purchasing Department as to the specific benefit to the county or the purpose of the purchase. What follows is a selection of suspicious charges we found:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Founded by Michael Hightower.

# **District Two Commissioner Jeff Rader**

DeKalb Historical Society	2009	\$6,000
Decatur Bulldogs Booster Club	2009 – 2013	\$950
Druid Hills Athletic Foundation	2009 - 2013	\$1,050
The Arts Leadership League of Georgia	October 21, 2009	\$2,500
Northlake Community Alliance, Inc.	2009 – 2013	\$2,500
Georgia Shakespeare Festival	December 20, 2010	\$1,000
Senior Connections, Inc.	2010 - 2013	\$2,500
DeKalb County Police Alliance	2011 - 2012	\$1,000
PEDS	February 23, 2011	\$1,000
Georgia Budget & Policy Institute	December 4, 2012	\$500
DeKalb Historical Society	November 20, 2012	\$75
DeKalb Library Foundation	February, 2012	\$250
Cross Keys Foundation, Inc.	July 3, 2012	\$1,000
Leadership DeKalb, Inc.	August 24, 2012	\$3,200
Park Pride Atlanta, Inc.	January 3, 2012	\$10,000
Park Pride Atlanta, Inc.	December 28, 2012	\$10,000
South River Watershed Alliance	August 19, 2013	\$150
Atlanta Area Agency on Aging	July 9, 2013	\$250
DeKalb Library Foundation	March 1, 2011	\$65
Atlanta Bicycle Foundation	January 26, 2012	\$100
The Civic League for Regional Atlanta	March, 2012	\$40
South River Watershed Alliance	August 19, 2013	\$150
PEDS	December 15, 2014	\$500
Senior Connections	December 19, 2014	\$500

Atlanta Bicycle Coalition	December 19, 2014	\$250
Georgia Budget & Policy Institute	December 19, 2014	\$250
Georgia River Network	December 19, 2014	\$100
DeKalb Historical Society	December 19, 2014	\$125
The South Fork Conservancy, Inc.	December 23, 2014	\$100
Park Pride	December 21, 2013	\$200
JustGive	March, 2014	\$26
Georgia Budget & Policy Institute	December 6, 2013	\$500
PEDS	December 6, 2013	\$500
DeKalb Historical Society	December 6, 2013	\$75
Georgia River Network	December 6, 2013	\$35
Net Progression, Inc.	2008 – 2009	\$5,000
Davis Fox <sup>10</sup>	Multiple	\$6,000
District Three Commissioner Larry John	<u>ıson</u>	
District Three Commissioner Larry John In The News	nson November 25, 2009	\$266
		\$266 \$3,000
In The News	November 25, 2009	
In The News Pathways Community Network	November 25, 2009 October 8, 2008	\$3,000
In The News Pathways Community Network Fowler's Food Consultant	November 25, 2009 October 8, 2008 2008 – 2013	\$3,000 \$6,568
In The News Pathways Community Network Fowler's Food Consultant Georgia State University Foundation	November 25, 2009 October 8, 2008 2008 – 2013 May 25, 2012	\$3,000 \$6,568 \$500
In The News Pathways Community Network Fowler's Food Consultant Georgia State University Foundation BLH Consulting	November 25, 2009 October 8, 2008 2008 – 2013 May 25, 2012 2009 - 2010	\$3,000 \$6,568 \$500 \$21,500
In The News Pathways Community Network Fowler's Food Consultant Georgia State University Foundation BLH Consulting BGB & B	November 25, 2009 October 8, 2008 2008 – 2013 May 25, 2012 2009 - 2010 2010 – 2014	\$3,000 \$6,568 \$500 \$21,500 \$10,000

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 10}$  Mr. Fox is Commissioner Gannon's policy analyst and project manager.

Porter Sanford	Multiple	\$11,500
Pencilworx Design Group	November 22, 2011	\$4,000
Brookstone	February 21, 2013	\$363
Crossroads News	February 25, 2013	\$750
Maud Baker Florist (x2)	July 11, 2013	\$148
Suburban Rental	July 26, 2013	\$578
Maud Baker Florist	August 15, 2013	\$142
Best Print	August 21, 2013	\$998
Custom Ink T-Shirts	August 23, 2013	\$1,935
Leadership DeKalb	August 12, 2013	\$250
Crossroads News	January 10, 2014	\$650
Caterrific	January 21, 2014	\$638
Caterrific	January 24, 2014	\$342
Caterrific	January 29, 2014	\$638
Brookstone	March 6, 2014	\$32
Bobby French (DJ & Mobile Karaoke)	Multiple	\$800
District Four Commissioner Sharon Barr	nes Sutton	
Dixie Glasshoppers, Inc.	August 27, 2008	\$495
Empowerment Planners and Consulting <sup>11</sup>	2009	\$3,700
Added Pizzazz	2009 – 2014	\$3,226
Crossroads News	2009 – 2014	\$2,590
Advantage Car Rental (traffic fine)	February 21, 2014	\$130
HSI Systems & Consultants <sup>12</sup>	2008 - 2009	\$34,570

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 11}$  Owned by Judy Brownlee, who is the county-paid aide for Barnes-Sutton.

 $<sup>^{12}</sup>$ Operated by Warren Mosby. Media reports say that he is, or was, the boyfriend of Barnes-Sutton.

Influence Factory, LLC	2011 – 2014	\$46,000	
Space Walk	June 24, 2010	\$144	
Bell & Washington LLC <sup>13</sup>	2011 – 2012	\$11,530	
Rixter-Tate Public Relations <sup>14</sup>	2010 - 2011	\$4,200	
Marglan Group <sup>15</sup>	June 28, 2013	\$3,500	
PayPal (Ethyll)	February 10, 2014	\$500	
Africa's Children	October 20, 2013	\$1,000	
Bed Bath & Beyond	September 2, 2013	\$239	
Apple Store, Birmingham, AL	May 3, 2013	\$229	
Advantage Car, College Park, GA	January 17, 2013	\$897	
International School Foundation	April 14, 2011	\$150	
New York Times	December 12, 2013	\$201	
RightThink Associates <sup>16</sup>	2009	\$30,775	
Ashlee Wright <sup>17</sup>	Multiple	\$11,910	
Karen Williams	Multiple	\$10,000	
Tangela Robinson <sup>18</sup>	Multiple	\$232	
Tyrone Hardeman (Disc Jockey)	Multiple	\$950	
Judy T. Brownlee (Assistant to Barnes Sutton)			
Maud Baker Florist	August 23, 2011	\$85	

Cafepress.com

August 28, 2011

\$524

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Law firm represented Barnes-Sutton for personal tax and car payment matters.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup>RashanaRixterworked for Barnes-Sutton's "youth leadership academy."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>Owned by Marguerita Lance, who was secretary for Barnes-Sutton.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup>Operated by Warren Mosby.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> County employee, Watershed Management

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup>Worked for Barnes-Sutton's "youth leadership academy."

Maud Baker Florist	October 20, 2011	\$165
Edible Arrangements	February 21, 2012	\$72
Cafepress.com	September 28, 2012	\$322
Maud Baker Florist	October 16, 2012	\$49
PayPal (Dancenia dance lessons)	April 18, 2013	\$100
PayPal (Africa Children)	October 19, 2013	\$240
Crestline Co. Inc.	July 18, 2011	\$504
Wal-Mart (Gift card)	December 8, 2012	\$100
District Six Commissioner Kathie Ganno	<u>on</u>	
Bleakly Advisory Group	November 10, 2008	\$3,220
Coles Italian Ice	November 5, 2008	\$400
Net Progression, Inc.	2008 – 2009	\$5,000
Druid Hills H.S. Foundation <sup>19</sup>	2008 – 2013	\$1,800
Lynwood Park Community Assoc.	April 10, 2009	\$100
Georgia Institute of Technology	June 11, 2009	\$6,435
Senior Connections, Inc.	2009 - 2013	\$1,980
DeKalb County Police Alliance	2011 – 2012	\$1,100
DeKalb Historical Society	November 17, 2011	\$3,000
DeKalb Library Foundation	2011 & 2013	\$3,000
Decatur Bulldogs Booster Club	2009 – 2013	\$950
Turkheimer and Hadden, LLC	December 7, 2012	\$5,000
DeKalb Library Foundation [Exhibit F]	May 25, 2012	\$100

 $<sup>^{19}</sup>$ Druid Hills High School Athletic Foundation.

Poplar Springs Baptist Church (gift card)	April, 2013	\$50
Fred Mucci (guitarist/vocalist)	April, 2013	\$250
Blue Soda	April 10, 2013	\$360
QuikTrip (gift card)	May 2, 2013	\$100
Park Pride Atlanta, Inc.	May 1, 2013	\$6,000
DeKalb Library	December 19, 2013	\$1,000
Target (gift card)	December 19, 2013	\$100
CVS Pharmacy (gift cards)	December 7, 2012	\$1,000
Kroger (gift card)	December 6, 2012	\$100
Jimmy John's	January 14, 2014	\$7.75
Davis Fox	December 1, 2010	\$2,000
Harriet Hollis <sup>20</sup>	2008 - 2010	\$4,000
PRISM <sup>21</sup>	Multiple	\$600
Rita Morgan <sup>22</sup>	2010	\$2,171
District Seven Commissioner Stan Watso	<u>on</u>	
AADCO Printing & Mailing	2008 - 2009	\$90,763
Capital Media Productions	2008	\$4,250
New York Times	2009 - 2010	\$136
Fowler's Food Consultant & Catering	April 17, 2009	\$685
Crossroads News	January 4, 2010	\$650
The Wall Street Journal	October 30, 2009	\$99

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup>2008 Campaign manager for Ms. Gannon.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup>Non-profit until status revoked by IRS.Operated by Joe Arrington, husband of Gannon's former secretary.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup>Former executive assistant to Ms. Gannon.

LDO Consulting	2011 - 2012	\$3,900
Broadway Consulting Group	2011 - 2014	\$7,000
Rotary of South DeKalb	2012 – 2014	\$2,475
UrbanProfessionals.com	April 21, 2014	\$500
National Pal, Inc.	April 22, 2011	\$410
The Urban Professionals	September 12, 2013	\$750
Atlantis Hotel Health Club	May 26 – 27, 2011	\$45
Ellery Hill <sup>23</sup>	2007 - 2008	\$7,400
Chicago Sheraton (Movie)	April 19, 2011	\$20.15
Ft. Worth, TX Renaissance Hotel (Movie)	July 21, 2013	\$18.39
Mr. Morris Williams <sup>24</sup>		
Bench Warmers	August 12, 2013	\$400
Bench Warmers Shell Oil (BOC Lunch)	August 12, 2013 October 8, 2013	\$400 \$350
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Shell Oil (BOC Lunch)	October 8, 2013	\$350
Shell Oil (BOC Lunch) Athens Pizza	October 8, 2013 May 5, 2014	\$350 \$751
Shell Oil (BOC Lunch) Athens Pizza Athens Pizza	October 8, 2013 May 5, 2014 February 4, 2013	\$350 \$751 \$300
Shell Oil (BOC Lunch) Athens Pizza Athens Pizza J. R. Crickets	October 8, 2013 May 5, 2014 February 4, 2013 March 18, 2013	\$350 \$751 \$300 \$299
Shell Oil (BOC Lunch) Athens Pizza Athens Pizza J. R. Crickets Gutbusters	October 8, 2013 May 5, 2014 February 4, 2013 March 18, 2013 March 11, 2013	\$350 \$751 \$300 \$299 \$150
Shell Oil (BOC Lunch) Athens Pizza Athens Pizza J. R. Crickets Gutbusters Athens Pizza	October 8, 2013 May 5, 2014 February 4, 2013 March 18, 2013 March 11, 2013 April 16, 2013	\$350 \$751 \$300 \$299 \$150 \$300
Shell Oil (BOC Lunch) Athens Pizza Athens Pizza J. R. Crickets Gutbusters Athens Pizza Benchwarmers	October 8, 2013 May 5, 2014 February 4, 2013 March 18, 2013 March 11, 2013 April 16, 2013 April 8, 2013	\$350 \$751 \$300 \$299 \$150 \$300 \$350
Shell Oil (BOC Lunch) Athens Pizza Athens Pizza J. R. Crickets Gutbusters Athens Pizza Benchwarmers Art by Golden	October 8, 2013 May 5, 2014 February 4, 2013 March 18, 2013 March 11, 2013 April 16, 2013 April 8, 2013 May 23, 2013	\$350 \$751 \$300 \$299 \$150 \$300 \$350 \$600

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup>Campaign manager for Watson. [The Crier]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Many transaction logs and other records for Williams were marked "misplaced receipt" and had no supporting documentation.

Green Ginger	November 4, 2013	\$350
Eurasia Bistro	June 24, 2010	\$1,587
Zanza	March 16, 2014	\$350
Floral Couture	November 14, 2012	\$485
Qzeens Catering	November 14, 2012	\$500
Coco Cabana	November 26, 2012	\$500
Southland Golf & Country Club	February 10, 2011	\$100
Stone Mountain Park	August 9, 2011	\$500
Kroger (popcorn)	June 23, 2014	\$6.99
DeKalb Chamber ICEO event tickets	July 25, 2014	\$875
Circle K (boiled peanuts)	July 14, 2014	\$2.99
District Attorney <sup>25</sup>		
<u>District Attorney</u> <sup>25</sup> Leadership Georgia	April 18, 2011	\$120
-	April 18, 2011 August 19, 2011	\$120 \$779
Leadership Georgia	•	
Leadership Georgia Brandsmart	August 19, 2011	\$779
Leadership Georgia Brandsmart Paragshah12	August 19, 2011 October 6, 2011	\$779 \$1,624
Leadership Georgia  Brandsmart  Paragshah12  Execute Your Passion, LLC	August 19, 2011 October 6, 2011 December 2, 2011	\$779 \$1,624 \$1,500
Leadership Georgia  Brandsmart  Paragshah12  Execute Your Passion, LLC  Kenley's Catering	August 19, 2011 October 6, 2011 December 2, 2011 December 6, 2011	\$779 \$1,624 \$1,500 \$450
Leadership Georgia  Brandsmart  Paragshah12  Execute Your Passion, LLC  Kenley's Catering  Uncle Bob's	August 19, 2011  October 6, 2011  December 2, 2011  December 6, 2011  December 12, 2011	\$779 \$1,624 \$1,500 \$450 \$344
Leadership Georgia  Brandsmart  Paragshah12  Execute Your Passion, LLC  Kenley's Catering  Uncle Bob's  Bear Valley Service <sup>26</sup>	August 19, 2011 October 6, 2011 December 2, 2011 December 6, 2011 December 12, 2011 January 5, 2012	\$779 \$1,624 \$1,500 \$450 \$344 \$925

These questionable charges may have been lawful and proper. However, our requests to review public records that could have explained and justified these expenses were ignored by the district attorney.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> It appears thatthe district attorney utilizes vehicles that have been seized and condemned as a result of various criminal matters for his use. Many of the automobile repair charges reviewed are for those vehicles.

Leadership Georgia	April 9, 2012	\$130
Kenley's Catering	April 16, 2012	\$428
Palace Café (New Orleans)	April 18, 2012	\$270
Kenley's Catering	April 27, 2012	\$459
Women's Resource Center	May 23, 2012	\$250
State Bar of Georgia	May 18, 2012	\$474
P. F. Chang's (Atlanta)	June 26, 2012	\$188
Leadership Georgia	August 28, 2012	\$150
Uncle Bob's	September 4, 2012	\$938
Public Storage	September 10, 2012	\$271
Public Storage	October 8, 2012	\$271
IISSTA ISRAEL LTD Sapir, Israel	October 21, 2012	\$256
Valross (PayPal)	December 28, 2012	\$2,000
Kenley's Catering	January 17, 2013	\$316
Bear Valley Service (Land Rover repair)	January 18, 2013	\$1,831
Kenley's Catering	January 18, 2013	\$272
Uncle Bob's	January 26, 2013	\$509
Kenley's Catering	February 23, 2013	\$480
State Bar of Georgia	February 25, 2013	\$200
Uncle Bob's	March 3, 2012	\$858
Leadership Georgia	April 29, 2013	\$50
State Bar of Georgia	May 3, 2013	\$255
Act Express, Inc.	May 10, 2013	\$195
State Bar of Georgia	May 23, 2013	\$455
WRC (PayPal)	June 3, 2013	\$250

Decatur Tire & Service	August 27, 2013	\$2,567
Lawyer's Club (PayPal)	August 26, 2013	\$350
Event Insurance (Nevada)	September 9, 2013	\$151
Kenley's Catering	September 12, 2013	\$464
DeKalb Bar Association	October 21, 2013	\$10
Leadership Georgia	October 28, 2013	\$150
Kenley's Catering	October 29, 2013	\$371
Decatur Tire & Service	December 19, 2013	\$543
The Fast Food (PayPal)	December 19, 2013	\$145
Kenley's Catering	January 15, 2014	\$414
Kenley's Catering	January 15, 2014	\$399
DUI Court		
1-800-Flowers.com	March 13, 2011	\$194
FTD.Com	April 28, 2011	\$58
Publix (staff celebration, balloons)	May 19, 2011	\$26
Covington Flowers	February 3, 2012	\$64
1-800-Flowers.com	March 6, 2012	\$144
Instead of Flowers	March 8, 2012	\$94
1-800-Flowers.com	July 3, 2012	\$134
1-800-Flowers.com	March 19, 2013	\$144
Cherry Moon Farms	April 25, 2013	\$112
County Clerk Barbara Sanders		
Publix (cereal)	May 18, 2009	\$5.29
Publix (Coffee-mate)	May 18, 2009	\$3.99

Publix (Bic lighter)	May 18, 2009	\$2.99
Wal-Mart (Motts Juice x2)	June 7, 2009	\$4.00
Wal-Mart (cereal)	June 7, 2009	\$3.18
Fluff Em Florist	October 20, 2009	\$670
Stanford Who's Who	January 28, 2011	\$618
Fry's Electronics	April 22, 2013	\$63
A State CourtEmployee		
DS Water	February 3, 2012	\$55
DS Water	February 9, 2012	\$79
Quill (unknown)	February, 2012	\$364
Publix ("Food stuff")	February 14, 2012	\$104
Publix ("Food stuff")	February 14, 2012	\$6
Crystal Springs Water	February 10, 2012	\$64
Publix ("Food stuff")	March 13, 2012	\$87
DS Water	April 5, 2012	\$31
Kroger ("Soda Pops")	April 10, 2012	\$5
Wal-Mart (Web camera)	April 15, 2012	\$89
Wal-Mart (Coffee & Flatware)	April 13, 2012	\$32
DS Water	May 3, 2012	\$31
Quill (Sugar)	May 14, 2012	\$44
Publix ("Food stuff")	May 8, 2012	\$99
DS Water	January 17, 2011	\$93
Wal-Mart (Coffee & creamer)	February 2, 2011	\$37
DS Water	February 10, 2011	\$51
Publix (Christmas cookies & tea)	February 8, 2011	\$10

Publix (Plates, napkins & flatware)	February 25, 2011	\$18
Quill (Coffeemate)	March 9, 2011	\$16
DS Waters	March 14, 2011	\$51
Quill (Foam cups)	March 17, 2011	\$35
Publix ("Food stuff")	March 8, 2011	\$68
DS Waters	April 7, 2011	\$28
Publix ("Food stuff")	April 12, 2011	\$7
Walgreens (mints)	April 13, 2011	\$5
Public (flatware)	May 2, 2011	\$10
DS Waters	May 5, 2011	\$36
Publix ("Food stuff")	May 11, 2011	\$66
1-800-Flowers.com	May 12, 2011	\$134
DS Waters	June 2, 2011	\$28
Publix ("Food stuff")	June 14, 2011	\$94
Quill ("Sugar in the Raw")	June 20, 2011	\$9
Wal-Mart (coffee & creamer)	June 18, 2011	\$15
DS Waters	June 30, 2011	\$36
Publix ("Food stuff")	July 12, 2011	\$74
DS Waters	July 28, 2011	\$43
DS Waters	August 25, 2011	\$38
Publix ("Food stuff")	August, 2011	\$127
Publix ("Food stuff")	September 6, 2011	\$63
Kroger (cutlery)	September 19, 2011	\$11
Wal-Mart ("Food stuff")	October 3, 2011	\$103
Publix (Gift card)	October 15, 2011	\$150

Publix (Gift card)	November 1, 2011	\$175
DS Waters	November 4, 2011	\$29
DS Waters	February 5, 2015	\$68
DS Waters	January 8, 2015	\$13
Law Department		
DeKalb Bar Association (dues x 4)	July 25, 2014	\$900
Derek White (photographer) <sup>27</sup>	March 17, 2015	\$500
Community Development		
The Gallery Collection (holiday cards)	November 5, 2010	\$80
` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` `	March 6, 7 & 25, 2012	\$271
Office Depot ("missing receipts")	,	
Office Depot (unknown)	May 2013	\$953
Human Resources Department		
QuikTrip (gift cards)	April 2, 2014	\$700
Royal Caribbean Cruise, Ltd.	March 27, 2014	
	Waren 21, 2014	\$682
Hall's Atlanta Wholesale Florist	April 16, 2015	\$682 \$409
Hall's Atlanta Wholesale Florist  American Designer Flowers	ŕ	
	April 16, 2015	\$409
American Designer Flowers	April 16, 2015 April 28, 2015	\$409 \$89
American Designer Flowers  QuikTrip (gift cards)	April 16, 2015 April 28, 2015 February 11, 2015	\$409 \$89 \$600
American Designer Flowers  QuikTrip (gift cards)  QuikTrip (gift cards)	April 16, 2015  April 28, 2015  February 11, 2015  March 11, 2015	\$409 \$89 \$600 \$60
American Designer Flowers  QuikTrip (gift cards)  QuikTrip (gift cards)  Hall's Atlanta Wholesale Florist	April 16, 2015 April 28, 2015 February 11, 2015 March 11, 2015 April 14, 2014	\$409 \$89 \$600 \$60 \$366
American Designer Flowers  QuikTrip (gift cards)  QuikTrip (gift cards)  Hall's Atlanta Wholesale Florist  Costco (snacks & water)	April 16, 2015 April 28, 2015 February 11, 2015 March 11, 2015 April 14, 2014 November 30, 2012	\$409 \$89 \$600 \$60 \$366 \$886

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> The receipt says this expense was for photographs on the county web site. We found no such photos.

# Solicitor General

Mekeeshia Foster (airbrush makeup)	May 9, 2013	\$175
Watershed Management Department		
Best Buy (television)	April 29, 2013	\$849
Best Buy (television)	June 14, 2011	\$689
Best Buy (television)	June 16, 2011	\$657
RadioShack (television)	January 10, 2014	\$179
Fleet Management Department		
RBM of Atlanta <sup>28</sup>	August 3, 2012	\$474
DIRECTV	January 26, 2015	\$83
Pinehill Trophy (retirement clock)	December 20, 2012	\$150
Pinehill Trophy (retirement plaque)	December 3, 2013	\$45
Tampa toll road (fine payment) <sup>29</sup>	January 17, 2014	\$42
Nalley BMW (parts for BMW)	April 3, 2014	\$113
Hennessy Jaguar	August 10, 2011	\$174
Nalley BMW	August 18, 2011	\$6

# **OUTSIDE REVIEW BY PLUNKETT**

On April 22, 2014, the BOC asked for bids for an independent analysis of spending by each member and their staff assistants.O.H Plunkett & Company, P.C. ("Plunkett") was awarded the contract. This engagement was "solely to assist with monitoring proper application of certain

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> For work on county vehicle #10775 which is assigned to the District Attorney.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup>Used to pay delinquent toll road fine in Tampa, Florida by fleet management employee who attended a 3-day training session and failed to pay for the use of atoll road.

policies and procedures relating to analyzing the expenditures of each member" of the BOC and their staff for the years commencing April 2004 through April 2014. We found the Plunkett reports to be of little value.

While Plunkett refused to provide any recordsor discuss their findings with us, we obtained copies of its reports to the BOC. Plunkett's review of expenditures were "to consider (a) whether purchases were for appropriate material goods used by a Commissioner in the normal functioning of a Commission office; (b) whether there is evidence of a valid work product when a service is purchased; and (c) what evidence exists that meals and travel expenses were for County business."

Plunkett noted several deficiencies described in the county's Internal Audit & Licensing Division reports covering transactions from 2009 to 2011. Those included: (a) improper or nonexistent transaction logs; (b) charges unsupported by receipts or other documentation; (c) lack of approval at the appropriate levels by authorized personnel as identified in the Policies and Procedures manual; and (d) incorrect coding of transactions by budget line categories. Plunkett noted that "our procedural review revealed deficiencies concurrent with those previously found by the Internal Audit Reports. A substantial portion of the supporting documents including the P-Card accounting logs were never prepared or submitted in accordance with the Policies and Procedures adopted by the county." Some of Plunkett's findings include:

#### Lee May, District Five & ICEO

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup>Plunkett used the 2004 purchasing card policy: "For the purposes of our review, we followed the guidelines of the March 2004 policy which was in effect for the entire scope period."

District Five expenses, starting with the 2006 Special Election to fill the position vacated by Hank Johnson, totaled approximately \$57,283. Plunkett noted that only 39% of all transactions had supporting records. A total of 509 transactions (61%) with the aggregate amount of \$43,862.27 did not have the required supporting documentation. "Monthly P-Card transaction logs and supporting receipts were missing from substantially all of the months reviewed . . ." Yet Plunkett stated "[w]e reviewed all related transactions and determined that based on the individual transaction descriptions, the expenditures appeared to be County business related."

### Jeff Rader, District Two

District Two expenses included 424 transactions, with 77% supported by receipts. <sup>31</sup>However, 23% of the charges were not included on the transaction logs.

#### Larry Johnson, District Three

District Three was in "general compliance with established County policies and procedures." Based on the documentation provided, "97% of transactions were supported by receipts" submitted by Commissioner Johnson. However, "100% of the transaction logs provided for review lacked an approval signature as directed by the P-Card policy." (This is common in most of the districts, due in part because there is no one specifically identified to "approve" the expenses by a Commission member.)

The review identified some \$12,000 spent for "community constituent support" to the Sanford Porter Center from 2011 - 2013. (This appears to have been contributions made by Commissioner Johnson using official funds.) There was also \$110,260 paid to Jettie Guinyard for graphic design and other services.

#### Sharon Barnes Sutton, District Four

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Commissioner Rader took office in 2006.

Plunkett noted several questionable purchasesmade by Commissioner Barnes Sutton. Out of 743 transactions totaling \$108,720, only 25% were properly documented. There were 20 payments made to Influence Factory LLC for public relations consulting \$47,800.

#### Kathie Gannon, District Six

Plunkett's review noted 243 transactions, 97% of which were supported by receipts. 15 transactions, totaling \$2,019, for purchases of money orders used to make "seasonal contributions to constituent groups."

#### Stan Watson, District Seven

From April 2004 thru April 2014, only 58% of the purchases were supported by transaction logs or receipts. The remaining 42% had no receipts or other supporting documentation to assist in the determination and identification for business purpose in accordance with county policy.

#### Central Administration and Clerks

Of the 10 cardholders, there was no supporting documentation for 5 employees who had 373 transactions totaling \$41,887.

#### FLEET MAINTAINANCE, REPAIR AND SERVICE OUTSOURCING

Countymechanics in the car and light truck repair shop complained of a low volume of workdone at the garage facility. This, despite a number of vehicles being out-sourced for repair work to car dealers as far away as Speedway Ford in Griffin, GA. The total spent for outside vendor repair workin 2013 was \$3,411,625, and in 2014 was \$3,505,231.

Fleet Maintenance Director J. Gregory Brake told us that by hiringas few as four additional personnelalmost \$2 million could be saved each year. This figure was supported by an analysis conducted by Matrix Consulting Group ("Matrix") in October 2014. Matrix concluded that staffing levels for maintenance and management functions performed in the DeKalb County Fleet Management Division Car and Light Truck shop "are insufficient to provide an adequate level of service." Matrix also said the county could easily lower costs in its maintenance shops by pursuing the business of cities in DeKalb County that currently outsource vehicle service and repair to various dealerships.

A top-level manager said further savings of approximately \$100,000could be accomplished by returning to the in-house practice of lubricating the heavy trucks used at the county landfills currently being out-sourced.

# WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Constant turnover in leadership and poor project supervisionin the Watershed Management Department has hurt the reputation and image of the county. There have been thefts by employees involving various schemes, with a few prosecutions. It is clear that additional examination is warranted. Mr. May authorized the hiring of a firm for a forensic audit of this department. Due to the expense involved, Mr. May said that this audit can be completed at a later date. <sup>33</sup>

#### PURCHASING POLICY

A new County Purchasing Policy ("Purchasing Policy") was adopted last year. With

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup>At a cost of \$361,267, according to Brake.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> We interviewed about half a dozen firms and were prepared to retain the services of Mr. Don Raulerson prior to our termination.

some exceptions, it covers procurement of all commodities, equipment and services. The stated purpose of the policy is to (a) obtain the best value; (b) foster effective, fair and broad-based competition in procurement and; (c) provide safeguards for the maintenance of quality, integrity and equity in the process. The policydeclares its objectives "[w]ill best be achieved through an open, competitive process...."

The policy allows for the creation of an "Ineligible Source List." Any person or company on that list cannot do business with the County, including any person or firm thathas a pending lawsuit, or has filed a lawsuit, against the County within the previous three years. Remarkably, parties who file a lawsuit against the county are placed in the same category as persons exhibiting unethical business practices or people convicted of crimes involving moral turpitude.

While administrative bid protest procedures are widely used in Georgia and other states to combat corruption, the county's Purchasing Policy provides no such procedure. Dissatisfied bidders must file a lawsuit to protest a procurement decision. However, by suing the County, the entity becomes ineligible to bid on future procurements. This creates a powerful disincentive for anyone to challenge the award of a contract.

Threatening dissatisfied bidders with disqualification from future business with the County is contrary to the stated goal of ensuring an open process, increases the risk of fraudulent procurement decisions and is bad public policy. It also raises serious constitutional concerns if the County asserted its claimed authority to deem a company ineligible due to the filing of a lawsuit.

#### VENDOR PAYMENTSAND BILLING PROBLEMS

There is an unreasonable delay in getting vendor invoices paid. One high-ranking county official acknowledged this and said that it hurts the County's reputation, especially in the small

business community. There has been little effort to correct this practice.

There are multiple causes of the late payments. The County has a policy of paying invoices at "Net 30," meaning that there is at least a built-in 30-day delay in payment from the very outset. There appears to be no county-wide policy enforced on processing invoices to insure prompt payment. However, there are instances where payments are quickly made to "connected" firms, and people. It has been suggested that only vendors who "know somebody or who pay to play" get timely payment.

As to water and sewer billing, we spoke with a landowner who, upon selling his Stone Mountain property in July of this year, was forced to satisfy a lien filed by the county for a bill that was over \$10,000, though the owner did not incur the debt. This is contrary to state law. [O.C.G.A. § 36-60-17(c)] (Supplier of water shall not impose lien against real property unless owner incurred the charges). The owner had to pay the bill in order to close the sale of the property.

#### OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

The Office of Management and Budget was created this year to recommend, draft and assist in passing the annual budget and a capital improvement plan. According to its mission statement, the duties include assisting senior leadership in enforcing day-to-day budgetary, financial, and management policies. One of its primary functions is to help manage the county budget. Perhaps by creating this new office, county departments will be prevented from overspending their budgets. For the past five years the average over-expenditure has been \$5,591,200.

Most departments do not spend over their budget. But some do it regularly. Since 2010, the worst violators have been: CEO (2014, 2012, 2011<sup>34</sup>, and 2010); District Attorney (2014, 2013<sup>35</sup>, 2012<sup>36</sup>, 2011<sup>37</sup>, and 2010<sup>38</sup>); and Health and Welfare/Family and Children Services (2014, 2013, 2012, and 2011<sup>39</sup>).

State law requires that the BOC, as the county governing authority, adopt and operate under an annual balanced budget. [O.C.G.A. § 36-81-3]. Moreover, the County's Organizational Act prohibits any expenditure of county funds except in accordance with the county budget, or amendments thereto, adopted by the BOC. [Org. Act Sec.17]. That same section requires the CEO to enforce compliance with this requirement by all departments or agencies.

Each Comprehensive Annual Financial Report between 2003 and 2013 noted the over-expenditures by county departments and what could be done in the months ahead to correct the deficiencies. While the CEO has the duty to enforce Section 17 with regard to the budget of each department, there is no evidence that he has done so. This lack of control is the origin of much of the fraud, waste and abuse we found. About one third of the departments routinely fail to live within their budgets. Neither the CEO nor the BOC has demanded that county departments spend no more than is allotted. This conduct violates state lawand the DeKalb Organizational Act. From 2003 to 2013 the county's outside financial review observed and noted this misconduct for years, yet no one has been held accountable.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> General Fund and Special Revenue – Special Tax District - Unincorporated

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> General Fund and Civil and Criminal Court System – District Attorney

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> General Fund and Non-major Special Revenue Grant-in-Aid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> General Fund and Non-major Special Revenue Grant-in-Aid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Civil and Criminal Court System and Non-major Special Revenue Grant-in-Aid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> General and Non-major Special Grant Revenue Grant-in-Aid

#### **INSPECTOR GENERAL**

There is a need to establish an Inspector Generalto identify fraud, waste, abuse, conflicts of interest, and other misconduct on a permanent basis. The person in this role must be independent and have the courage to confront county elected and appointed officials in all branches of government. There should be sanctions for anyone that attempts to impede investigative efforts by the inspector general.

## CHIEF AUDIT EXECUTIVE

The Chief Audit Executive position was created as a part of the Office of Internal Audit under Act No. 206 of the 2015 Session of the General Assembly. The person who is appointed will have no more than two five-year terms, and will have the authority to issue subpoenas. The activities of the Office of Internal Audit will be subject to limited peer review by an audit oversight committee of five voting members with experience as accountants, or other relevant professional background.

Act 206 was effective July 1, 2015, and the process to appoint the first members of the audit oversight committee is due to be completed by October 31, 2015.

#### ETHICS BOARD

The Organizational Act of DeKalb County contains the Code of Ethics.<sup>40</sup> It consists of approximately one-sixth of the total Act and creates a seven member board of ethics which, until very recently, has been impotent.

As indicated by the chart below, the board was inactive from 2003 until late 2013. During this decade, there was a total of \$36,000 budgeted for the ethics board. According to the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup>(Ga Laws 1956, p. 1203, as amended)

Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports for that period only \$3,000 was spent.

	Budgeted Amount		Actual Amount	Variance With Final
	Original   Final		(Budgetary Basis)	Budget
				Over (Under)
2003	\$2,000	\$2,000	_	(\$2,000)
2004	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	_
<u>2005</u>	\$2,000	\$2,000	para .	(\$2,000)
<u>2006</u>	\$2,000	\$2,000	_	(\$2,000)
2007	\$2,000	\$2,000	_	(\$2,000)
2008	\$1,000	\$1,000	_	(\$1,000)
2009	\$1,000	\$1,000	0	(\$1,000)
<u>2010</u>	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	_
<u>2011</u>	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$1,000	(\$7,000)
2012	\$5,000	\$5,000	_	(\$5,000)
2013	\$5,000	\$11,000	_	(\$11,000)
2014	\$118,000	\$215,000	\$71,000	(\$114,000)

According to former Director John Ernst, the Ethics Board became active in late 2013, after the indictment of CEO Burrell Ellis. For 2014, the budget was \$215,000, but only \$71,000 was spent. Recently, the board imposed a public reprimand on a county commissioner, which is the first such action the board has taken in over a decade.

In the 2015 Session of the General Assembly, Act 204 was passed. It was signed by Governor Deal on May 12 of this year. To become effective it must be approved by county voters in a special election on November 3, 2015. If Act 204 is approved, Ethics Board members will no longer be selected by the CEO and Commission.

The new board will be appointed as follows; one member by the DeKalb Bar Association from its membership; one member by the DeKalb County Chamber of Commerce who is not an attorney; one member by majority vote from the DeKalb County legislative delegation; one member by the DeKalb County Probate Judge; one member by Leadership DeKalb; one non-attorney member appointed by the six major universities and colleges located within DeKalb County (Agnes Scott College, Columbia Theological Seminary, Emory University, Georgia State University, Mercer University, and Oglethorpe University); and one member by the chief Superior Court judge.

# **SANITATION DEPARTMENT**

A Sanitation Department employee was arrested, while on duty, for driving under the influence ("DUI") of alcohol in a county vehicle, which was impounded after the arrest. The next day that vehicle was retrieved and, at a supervisor's direction, the impound fee of \$140 was paid

using county funds. The employee pled guiltyto DUI and resigned from the Sanitation Department. The next week he was rehired by the county.<sup>41</sup>

#### **RADIO SERVICES**

Fourteen county departments are serviced under one contract for the removal, installation and repair of two-way radio equipment on county vehicles. This contract was executed on August 21, 2014, and renews each year. The total contract price "shall not exceed \$2,400,000."T-Mobile Communications ("MC"),was awarded the contract and charges the county \$850 to remove radio equipment from a vehicle and \$1,900 to install new equipment, for a total of \$2,750.

This contrasts with proposals of \$1,700 from Diversified Electronics of Marietta and \$1,500 from Atlanta Communications Company ("ACC") for the very same work. Both companies are certified by Motorola, and there is no apparent operational reason to only utilize T-Mobile Communications. ACC is a well-known and respected vendor and does work for the State Patrol and other agencies.

The MC contract was presented to the Purchasing Department by the DeKalb County Police Department ("DKPD") as a "sole source" request for work to be conducted. DKPD asserted MC was the "only company that could perform the necessary work." Deputy Director of Purchasing, Yolanda Broome, told us this contract should have been advertised for bids.

There is a "termination for convenience" clause in the contract with MC. This would allow the termination of the contract with a thirty-day notice at the County's convenience. This

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> This employee had been arrested a total of six times since 2001 according to police.

contract can also be terminated, with appropriate notice, at the end of every calendar year without cause.Ms. Broome told us that this contract should be terminated and re-bid.

#### **ALLEGATION OF BRIBERY**

An allegation of bribery was made involving county employees. This information is being provided to the Director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, along with a copy of all relevant materials.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The government of DeKalb County has failed. To be sure, the overwhelming majority of county employees work hard each day to lawfully perform their duties, but they do so in spite of top managers and elected officials who fail to understand the proper role of government and who have little ability or desire to lead.

Outside audits, management reviews and special investigations will not fix the problems with the governance of this county. Until reform-minded public officials, who have the courage to demand that change occur are elected, this dysfunction will continue to fester. And they must understand that the transformation starts with them.

Mr. May stated that "Public cynicism continues to grow as the stench of corruption and distrust permeates our air." Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia Jeffrey Davis said "Corruption in DeKalb County is rampant, and its residents are frustrated and disheartened." District Attorney Robert James called a former administration a "sewer of corruption." We fully concur with each statement.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1] A new day-to-day supervisor for all county operations should be appointed, so the public's trust in the administration of DeKalb County can begin to be restored. He or she should be given full power and authority to manage all county departments.
- 2] The interim chief executive officer of DeKalb County should resign today to allow for a special election.
- Take immediate steps to recover all funds that were spent in violation of state law, county policy or the Georgia Constitution. For expenses that were improperly charged, but only in violation of county policy, some form of amnesty should be offered if the funds are repaid.
- 4] All spending by commission members and their staffs should be posted on a public county website each week.
  - 5] No purchase cards should be used and existing accounts cards should be closed.
- 6] The ordinance should be enforced that forbids department heads and elected or appointed public officers from borrowing money from subordinate employees or vendors. The sanction for this conduct, which includes removal from office or termination, should be enforced.
  - 7] All records of expenditures should be kept for at least seven years.
- 8] State funds, appropriated by the General Assembly, should be the sole source of funding for the office of District Attorney. This will ensure that the circuit's chief prosecutor is free from actual, or apparent, undue influence by the county governing authority.
- 9] The BOC should determine why there is a delay in getting bills paid and what is needed to correct this problem.
- All information with regard to illegal conduct should be reviewed by the attorney general and a grand jury to determine if there is probable cause to believe that crimes have been committed.

- The County Attorney and the Finance Director, both of whom can only be removed from their positions for cause, should serve as "institutional whistle-blowers." They have a duty to provide advice and direction to ensure that county officials and employees, at all times, operate within the law. A more aggressive stance by the county attorney could have prevented many of the acts of misconduct we found.
- The current restriction in procurement policy on those who have sued the county should be eliminated.
  - 13] The two-way radio repair and installation contract should be re-bid.
- 14] The CEO should enforce the Organization Act requirement that departments live within their annual budgets. The Act should be amended to remove the exemption of the sheriff, the district attorney, tax commissioner and clerk of superior court from this requirement.

## **EXHIBIT A**



#### Office of Interim Chief Executive Officer

DeKalb County, Georgia

Lee N. May
Interim CEO

### Executive Order No. 2015-1 Appointment of Special Investigator

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate that DeKalb County Government model the highest standards of integrity; and

WHEREAS, as Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, Georgia, I am committed to, and have established as one of my highest priorities, the restoration of the public's trust in our county government; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to subsections 13 (a), (d), (g), and (h) of the Organizational Act of DeKalb county, the Chief Executive has the authority to appoint a Special Investigator to investigate the affairs, records, expenditures of employees and departments under the authority of the Chief Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, it is my firm belief that the Special Investigator will assist in restoring public confidence and trust in DeKalb County Government, and set high standards of integrity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lee N. May, Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, Georgia, in consideration of the aforementioned, do hereby appoint Michael J. Bowers Special Investigator to provide a thorough systematic review of DeKalb County Government policies and procedures to identify any conflicts of interest, corruption or malfeasance and make specific recommendations in an effort to improve county operations, restore our image and the public's trust in county government and order as follows:

1. The Special Investigator shall be independent and shall be appointed for a term, not less than 120 days, subject to extensions by the Chief Executive Officer necessitated by the findings of the Special Investigator. The Special Investigator shall be assisted by the law firm of Balch & Bingham, LLP or others he deems necessary to carry out the duties as Special Investigator. The Special Investigator shall be provided funding determined by the Chief Executive Officer for the performance of his functions.

1

2. The Special Investigator shall:

 $\{M^{*}\}$ 

1.3.

- a. Evaluate the need to establish an Inspector General office or a similar government position;
- b. Review internal investigation protocols;
- c. Review the County's internal controls (Enterprise Risk Management);
- d. Review personnel policies and procedures to ensure proper hiring practices;
- e. Review the County's financial controls to ensure the Finance and Budget Departments are achieving their objectives;
- f. Review the DeKalb County Ethics Code and other existing county oversight mechanisms to ensure that the county is operating with the highest ethical standards;
- g. Operate a telephone hotline to receive confidential calls about the work of the Special Investigator from county officials, employees and the public;
- h. Review the County's motor vehicle take-home policy.
- i. Perform any other functions as authorized by the Chief Executive Officer that are necessary or appropriate to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of this position;
- 3. The Special Investigator shall be given full access to employees and records of the County, including, but not limited to, pending investigations, except those conducted by the District Attorney, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Unites States Attorney and other law enforcement agencies;
  - a. Prior to any questioning by the Special Investigator or his assistants, the official or employee, upon request, shall be afforded a reasonable period of time to obtain legal representation at his or her own cost;
  - b. When an employee is requested to give information or participate in an interview, the employee shall be apprised through signing an agreement of his or her right to remain silent; that anything said may be used against him or her in both a criminal or administrative proceeding; and that he or she cannot be disciplined for remaining silent.

- 5. Additionally, the Special Investigator or their designee shall have the power to:
  - a. Require the production of any documents or other such material reasonably likely to lead to the discovery of evidence relevant to any investigation, examination or review unless the Chief Executive Officer would not otherwise be entitled to review the documents or other such material. This power does not include access to witnesses, documents or other such material related to *Shoenthal*, et al v. Shoenthal, et al, DeKalb County Superior Court, Civil Action No. 14-CV-8263-10;
  - b. Request any current official or employee under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer to answer questions concerning any matter related to the performance of his or her official duties, consistent with contractual, statutory and constitutional protections.
- 6. The Special Investigator may make interim reports, at his discretion, to the Chief Executive Officer, DeKalb County District Attorney, or other appropriate entities, any evidence of misconduct that is discovered.
- 7. The Special Investigator shall prepare a report for the Chief Executive Officer and the public concerning the operations of DeKalb County government. Those findings shall be the opinions of the Special Investigator and may include the following:
  - a. Recommend programs and controls to improve county practices;
  - b. Recommend new or enhanced controls for county departments under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer:
  - c. Recommend additional practices and resources (personnel, equipment, etc.) necessary to implement, carry out and monitor these recommendations;
  - d. Recommend enforcement and accountability guidelines;
  - e. Recommend internal investigation protocols if needed;
  - f. Recommend disclosure protocols if needed;
  - g. Report to the DeKalb County District Attorney, or other appropriate entities, any evidence of misconduct that is discovered.

#### 8. Fees

a. The Special Investigator shall be paid for this investigation as follows: Mr. Bowers and all attorneys will bill at a flat rate of \$400 per hour; Paralegals will bill at \$150 per hour. The Special Investigator will submit a monthly report to the Chief Executive Officer detailing the hours worked by individual and by task; this report shall include all expenses of the investigation incurred to date.

#### 9. Distribution of Executive Order

a. This Executive Order is to be distributed to each appointed official, manager, and employee under the supervision of the Chief Executive.

#### 10. Effective Date

a. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon signature and publication. The Executive Order, along with Executive Order 2015-2, supersedes and replaces the Executive Order issued on March 18, 2015.

so ordered this 3rd

LEE N. MAY

Interim Chief Executive Officer

BARBARA H. SANDERS, CCC Clerk to the Chief Executive Officer

and Board of Commissioners

This Executive Order shall remain in the custody of the County Clerk. Certified copies are available upon request.



#### Office of Interim Chief Executive Officer

DeKalb County, Georgia

Lee N. May
Interim CEO

#### Executive Order No. 2015-2 Appointment of Special Investigator

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate that DeKalb County Government model the highest standards of integrity; and

WHEREAS, as Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, Georgia, I am committed to, and have established as one of my highest priorities, the restoration of the public's trust in our county government; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to subsections 13 (a), (d), (g), and (h) of the Organizational Act of DeKalb county, the Chief Executive has the authority to appoint a Special Investigator to investigate the affairs, records, expenditures of employees and departments under the authority of the Chief Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, it is my firm belief that the Special Investigator will assist in restoring public confidence and trust in DeKalb County Government, and set high standards of integrity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lee N. May, Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, Georgia, in consideration of the aforementioned, do hereby appoint Richard L. Hyde as Special Investigator to provide a thorough systematic review of DeKalb County Government policies and procedures to identify any conflicts of interest, corruption or malfeasance and make specific recommendations in an effort to improve county operations, restore our image and the public's trust in county government and order as follows:

1. The Special Investigator shall be independent and shall be appointed for a term, not less than 120 days, subject to extensions by the Chief Executive Officer necessitated by the findings of the Special Investigator. The Special Investigator shall be assisted by others he deems necessary to carry out his duties as Special Investigator. The Special Investigator shall be provided funding determined by the Chief Executive Officer for the performance of his functions. Also, the Special Investigator is authorized to retain, at the county's expense, a certified public accounting firm, if necessary, to assist in performing a forensic audit of any unit of DeKalb County government under the authority of the Chief Executive Officer.

13 T

#### 2. The Special Investigator shall:

- a. Review past and current procurement policies and procedures to determine if employees or officials participate in bid rigging, kickbacks or interfere with the selection of vendors;
- Receive, initiate and investigate complaints concerning allegations of corruption, fraud, criminal activity, conflicts of interest or abuse in DeKalb County Government by any current official or employee under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer;
- c. Determine, with respect to allegations of corruption, fraud, criminal activity, conflicts of interest or abuse in DeKalb County Government, whether referral for disciplinary action, civil or criminal prosecution, or further investigation by an appropriate federal, state or local agency is warranted;
- d. Operate a telephone hotline to receive confidential calls about the work of the Special Investigator from county officials, employees and the public;
- e. Review the County's motor vehicle take-home practice;
- f. Perform any other functions as authorized by the Chief Executive Officer that are necessary or appropriate to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of this position;
- 3. The Special Investigator shall be given full access to employees and records of the County, including, but not limited to, pending investigations, except those conducted by the District Attorney, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Unites States Attorney and other law enforcement agencies;
  - a. Prior to any questioning by the Special Investigator or his assistants, the official or employee, upon request, shall be afforded a reasonable period of time to obtain legal representation at his or her own cost;
  - b. When an employee is requested to give information or participate in an interview, the employee shall be apprised through signing an agreement of his or her right to remain silent; that anything said may be used against him or her in both a criminal or administrative proceeding; and that he or she cannot be disciplined for remaining silent.
- 4. Additionally, the Special Investigator or their designee shall have the power to:

- a. Require the production of any documents or other such material reasonably likely to lead to the discovery of evidence relevant to any investigation, examination or review unless the Chief Executive Officer would not otherwise be entitled to review the documents or other such material. This power does not include access to witnesses, documents or other such material related to *Shoenthal*, et al v. Shoenthal, et al, DeKalb County Superior Court, Civil Action No. 14-CV-8263-10;
- b. Request any current official or employee under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer to answer questions concerning any matter related to the performance of his or her official duties, consistent with contractual, statutory and constitutional protections.
- 5. The Special Investigator may make interim reports, at their discretion, to the Chief Executive Officer, DeKalb County District Attorney, or other appropriate entities, any evidence of misconduct that is discovered.
- 6. The Special Investigator shall prepare a report for the Chief Executive Officer and the public concerning the operations of DeKalb County government. Those findings shall be the opinions of the Special Investigator and may include the following:
  - a. Recommend programs and controls to improve county practices;
  - b. Recommend new or enhanced controls for county departments under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer;
  - c. Recommend additional practices and resources (personnel, equipment, etc.) necessary to implement, carry out and monitor these recommendations;
  - d. Recommend enforcement and accountability guidelines;
  - e. Recommend internal investigation protocols if needed;
  - f. Recommend disclosure protocols if needed;
  - g. Report to the DeKalb County District Attorney, or other appropriate entities, any evidence of misconduct that is discovered.

#### 7. Fees

a. The Special Investigator shall be paid for this investigation as follows: Mr. Hyde and all investigators, at a flat rate of \$300 per hour. Paralegals will bill at \$150 per hour. The Special Investigator will submit a monthly report to the Chief Executive Officer detailing the hours worked by individual and by task; this report shall include all expenses of the investigation incurred to date.

#### 8. Distribution of Executive Order

a. This Executive Order is to be distributed to each appointed official, manager, and employee under the supervision of the Chief Executive.

#### 9. Effective Date

a. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon signature and publication. This Executive Order, along with Executive Order No. 2015-1, supersedes and replaces the Executive Order issued on March 18, 2015.

SO ORDERED this

, 2015.

LEE N. MAY

Interim Chief Executive Officer

ATTE**S**T

BARBARA H. SANDERS, CCC

Clerk to the Chief Executive Officer

and Board of Commissioners

This Executive Order shall remain in the custody of the County Clerk. Certified copies are available upon request.

## EXHIBIT B



July 31, 2015

Robert James 556 N. McDonough St. Judicial Tower - Suite 4210 Decatur, GA 30030

Dear Robert,

I would like to sincerely apologize for the recent letter you received from the special investigators regarding the open records request. I will be reaching out to the special investigators to inform them that this action is beyond the scope of the Executive Order.

Sincerely,

Let May

Lee May

Interim CEO, DeKalb County Government

## EXHIBIT C



#### **Interim Chief Executive Officer** Lee May

August 6, 2015

Mike Bowers and Richard Hyde 30 Ivan Allen, Jr. Blvd., N.W. Suite 700 Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Dear Mr. Bowers and Mr. Hyde,

Nancy Jester District 2

Jeff Rader District 3 Larry Johnson

District 4 Sharon Barnes Sutton

District 5 Mereda Davis Johnson

> District 6 Kathie Gannon

District 7 Stan Watson

Let me begin by thanking you for your work. I received your August 5<sup>th</sup> Investigative Update, and you and I met vesterday to discuss various issues. During that meeting you agreed that your investigation would conclude now based on the 120 days provided through my Executive Order. We agreed you would issue your final written report within the next three week which would be on or before Wednesday, August 26, 2015. We discussed presentation of the Final Report to the Board of Commissioners in October. Upon reflection, no further presentations need to be scheduled until issuance of the written Final Report.

As you know, monetary constraints exist with this investigation, and I cannot provide additional funding for this transaction beyond issuance of the Final Report in three weeks. In our meeting, you also expressed frustration about non-payment of your invoices, and I assured you that any outstanding invoices would be processed immediately and your final payment will be issued upon receipt of the Final Report in the next three weeks.

Moreover, it is important that I memorialize my concerns and general direction to you. After review of your August 5<sup>th</sup> Investigative Update, I am concerned about the tone and content of your Final Report and I insist that your Final Report be detailed, factual and accurate. Your August 5th Investigative Update was very broad and included generalized personal attacks on the entire county workforce.

I entrusted you with this task because I believe your 16 years of service as the Attorney General for the State of Georgia and your status as a partner in a major law firm make you uniquely qualified to conduct a factual investigation and issue a professional and accurate Final Report. While I understand your frustration at not being fully paid as of this date, the salacious headline-grabbing characterizations in your August 5<sup>th</sup> Investigative Update and its imprecise references will need more context in your final report for my administration to take proper action to restore the faith and trust in DeKalb County government.

For example, your August 5<sup>th</sup> Investigative Update references a Purchasing Card (P-card) being used to purchase a trip to the Bahamas for an employee. I believe you are referring to an award given as part of a county customer service award program, and not an individual employee who simply used a county P-card to purchase a cruise to the Bahamas. While you might disagree with utilizing government funding for customer service award programs to increase employee morale, this use of a county P-card certainly does not provide evidence to support your conclusion that DeKalb County government is "rotten to the core."

Additionally, you have already raised concerns over P-card usage in your June 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Report. On June 8, 2015, upon receipt of your recommendation, I immediately eliminated the P-card program, with few exceptions for emergencies. Nowhere in your August 5<sup>th</sup> Investigative Update did you mention this fact.

In your August 5<sup>th</sup> Investigative Update, you also mention that you have uncovered criminal wrong-doing. I must insist that you talk immediately with the appropriate prosecutor, whether it is the Acting United States Attorney, the DeKalb District Attorney, or the DeKalb Solicitor-General to determine next steps and the propriety of inclusion of any such findings in your Final Report. I know that you do not want your actions or Final Report to jeopardize or prohibit a future criminal investigation and prosecution.

Finally, as you well know, I agreed that your Final Report would be released without my prior review or input and I stand by that decision. However, the tone and nature of the August 5<sup>th</sup> Investigative Update requires me to caution you that given your independent role, legal responsibility for all of your actions, including the content of the Final Report rest solely with you, your firm Balch & Bingham LLP, Richard Hyde and others assigned by you or Mr. Hyde to assist with this investigation.

Our next communication should only be delivery of the final report on or before August 26, 2015.

Again thank you for your work and I look forward to receiving your Final Report including the required recommendations for improving county government as outlined in the applicable Executive Orders.

Sincerely

Lee May

Interim Chief Executive Officer

DeKalb County, Georgia

cc: John A. Horn, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia Robert James, District Attorney Sherry Boston, Solicitor-General Members, Board of Commissioners Balch and Bingham LLP



August 6, 2015

#### VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Lee N. May Interim Chief Executive Officer DeKalb County 1300 Commerce Drive Decatur, GA 30030

Dear Mr. May:

I have seen reports in the local media quoting you, stating that our investigative report would be delivered to you in three weeks. That is contrary to my notes of our discussion yesterday. It was clear to me and Mr. Hyde that we were all in agreement that the report would be completed and presented publicly to you and the Commission on October 6, 2015.

Please make all efforts to correct this misimpression and inaccuracy as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

cc:

Michael J. Bowers
Michael J. Bowers

Richard L. Hyde

Commission Members

## **EXHIBIT D**

State Witness - Inv. Tracey L. Enderson DeKalb County District Attorney's Office

### 15-CR 2033-2

No. DEKALB COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

MARCH TERM 2015

THE STATE

vs

#### ROBERT LUNDSTEN

#### D0246826-02

Ct. 1: Theft by Taking

Ct. 2: Theft by Taking

Ct. 3: Theft by Taking

Ct. 4: Theft by Taking

Ct. 5: Theft by Taking

Ct. 6: Theft by Taking

Ct. 7: Making a False Statement

Ct. 8: Making a False Statement

Ct. 9: Making a False Statement

True Bill.
Foreperson.

The Defendant, Robert Lun Indictment, list of witnesses and pleads	dsten, waives copy of the s, full panel, formal arraignment
This the of	20
District Attorney	
Defendant's Attorney	
Defendant	

#### STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF DEKALB

#### BILL OF INDICTMENT

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF SAID COUNTY,

The Grand Jurors selected, chosen and sworn for the County of DeKalb to wit:

- 1. Austin K. Dudley, Foreperson
- 2. Kathy R. Adams
- 3. Tricia Appleton...
- 4. Tameka L. Barnes
- 5. Felita Booker
- 6. Georgia M. Brown
- 7. Melissa J. Christoff
- 8. Linda S. Colvin-
- 9. Antoinette Covell.
- 10. Sherief H. Eissa
- 11. David G. Hurst
- 12. Stephanie F. James
- 13. Leah C. Junies-
- 14. Anthony Love.

- 15. Kimberlee K. Martens
- 16. Noreen McClarty
- 17. Bronwen A. Morgan
- 18. Bruce R. Newton
- 19. Deanna S. Rees
- 20. Linda L. Renegar
- 21. Bryten Roddy
- 22. Mohammed S. Shafiq
- 23. Inger E. VanHoy
- 24. Gerrard S. Waite
- 25. Annie R. Washington
- 26. Alice Whitley

The GRAND JURORS aforesaid, in the name of and on behalf of the citizens of the State of Georgia, charge and accuse

#### ROBERT LUNDSTEN

with the offense of THEFT BY TAKING in violation of O.C.G.A. 16-8-2 for the said accused person, in the County of DeKalb and State of Georgia, on or about the 13th day of October, 2013, being an employee of a government institution, to wit: the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and DeKalb County government, and being in lawful possession of United States Currency, the property of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and DeKalb County government, did unlawfully appropriate said property to his own use with the intention of depriving said owner of said property, in breach of the accused's duties as such employee,

contrary to the laws of said State, the good order, peace and dignity thereof.

**DEKALB SUPERIOR COURT** 

The GRAND JURORS aforesaid, in the name of and on behalf of the citizens of the State of Georgia, charge and accuse

#### ROBERT LUNDSTEN

with the offense of THEFT BY TAKING in violation of O.C.G.A. 16-8-2 for the said accused person, in the County of DeKalb and State of Georgia, on or about the 9th day of December, 2013, being an employee of a government institution, to wit: the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and DeKalb County government, and being in lawful possession of United States Currency, the property of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and DeKalb County government, did unlawfully appropriate said property to his own use with the intention of depriving said owner of said property, in breach of the accused's duties as such employee,

contrary to the laws of said State, the good order, peace and dignity thereof.

**DEKALB SUPERIOR COURT** 

The GRAND JURORS aforesaid, in the name of and on behalf of the citizens of the State of Georgia, charge and accuse

#### ROBERT LUNDSTEN

with the offense of THEFT BY TAKING in violation of O.C.G.A. 16-8-2 for the said accused person, in the County of DeKalb and State of Georgia, on or about the 13th day of December, 2013, being an employee of a government institution, to wit: the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and DeKalb County government, and being in lawful possession of United States Currency, the property of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and DeKalb County government, did unlawfully appropriate said property to his own use with the intention of depriving said owner of said property, in breach of the accused's duties as such employee,

contrary to the laws of said State, the good order, peace and dignity thereof.

DEKALB SUPERIOR COURT

The GRAND JURGRS aforesaid, in the name of and on behalf of the citizens of the State of Georgia, charge and accuse

#### ROBERT LUNDSTEN

with the offense of **THEFT BY TAKING** in violation of O.C.G.A. 16-8-2 for the said accused person, in the County of DeKalb and State of Georgia, on or about the 21st day of December, 2013, being an employee of a government institution, to wit: the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and DeKalb County government, and being in lawful possession of United States Currency, the property of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and DeKalb County government, did unlawfully appropriate said property to his own use with the intention of depriving said owner of said property, in breach of the accused's duties as such employee,

contrary to the laws of said State, the good order, peace and dignity thereof.

DEKALB SUPERIOR COURT

The GRAND JURORS aforesaid, in the name of and on behalf of the citizens of the State of Georgia, charge and accuse

#### ROBERT LUNDSTEN

with the offense of **THEFT BY TAKING** in violation of O.C.G.A. 16-8-2 for the said accused person, in the County of DeKalb and State of Georgia, on or about the 21st day of December, 2013, being an employee of a government institution, to wit: the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and DeKalb County government, and being in lawful possession of United States Currency, the property of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and DeKalb County government, did unlawfully appropriate said property to his own use with the intention of depriving said owner of said property, said property being separate and distinct from that alleged in Count 4 of the Indictment, in breach of the accused's duties as such employee,

contrary to the laws of said State, the good order, peace and dignity thereof.

DEKALB SUPERIOR COURT

The GRAND JURORS aforesaid, in the name of and on behalf of the citizens of the State of Georgia, charge and accuse

#### ROBERT LUNDSTEN

with the offense of THEFT BY TAKING in violation of O.C.G.A. 16-8-2 for the said accused person, in the County of DeKalb and State of Georgia, on or about the 19th day of January, 2014, being an employee of a government institution, to wit: the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and DeKalb County government, and being in lawful possession of United States Currency, the property of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and DeKalb County government, did unlawfully appropriate said property to his own use with the intention of depriving said owner of said property, in breach of the accused's duties as such employee,

contrary to the laws of said State, the good order, peace and dignity thereof.

DEKALB SUPERIOR COURT

The GRAND JURORS aforesaid, in the name of and on behalf of the citizens of the State of Georgia, charge and accuse

#### ROBERT LUNDSTEN

with the offense of MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT in violation of O.C.G.A. 16-10-20 for the said accused person, in the County of DeKalb and State of Georgia, on or about the 5th day of September, 2014, did knowingly and willfully make and use a false writing to wit: a Kroger Supermarket receipt containing the false statement that the purchases were for office drinks and supplies, knowing the same to contain a false and fraudulent statement, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the DeKalb County District Attorney's Office, an agency of DeKalb County, Georgia,

contrary to the laws of said State, the good order, peace and dignity thereof.

**DEKALB SUPERIOR COURT** 

The GRAND JURORS aforesaid, in the name of and on behalf of the citizens of the State of Georgia, charge and accuse

#### ROBERT LUNDSTEN

with the offense of MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT in violation of O.C.G.A. 16-10-20 for the said accused person, in the County of DeKalb and State of Georgia, on or about the 5th day of September, 2014, did knowingly and willfully make and use a false writing to wit: a The UPS Store receipt containing the false statement that the purchases were for office shipping, knowing the same to contain a false and fraudulent statement, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the DeKalb County District Attorney's Office, an agency of DeKalb County, Georgia,

contrary to the laws of said State, the good order, peace and dignity thereof.

**DEKALB SUPERIOR COURT** 

The GRAND JURORS aforesaid, in the name of and on behalf of the citizens of the State of Georgia, charge and accuse

#### ROBERT LUNDSTEN

with the offense of MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT in violation of O.C.G.A. 16-10-20 for the said accused person, in the County of DeKalb and State of Georgia, on or about the 5th day of September, 2014, did knowingly and willfully make and use a false writing to wit: a The UPS Store receipt containing the false statement that the purchases were for office shipping, knowing the same to contain a false and fraudulent statement, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the DeKalb County District Attorney's Office, an agency of DeKalb County, Georgia, said false writing being separate and distinct from that alleged in Count 8 of the Indictment,

contrary to the laws of said State, the good order, peace and dignity thereof.

DEKALB SUPERIOR COURT

## EXHIBIT E



GRAND WAILEA RESORT AND SPA 3850 ALANUI DRIVE MAUI, HI 96753

United States of America

TELEPHONE 808-875-1234 • FAX 8088794077

Reservations

www.hilton.com or 1 800 HILTONS

MAY, LEE

7593 POPLAR FALLS STREET

LITHONIA GA 30058

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Room No:

8074/Q2DV

Arrival Date:

12/2/2014 11:02:00 PM

Departure Date:

12/6/2014 12:56:00 PM

Adult/Child:

1/0

Cashier ID:

**MERLYA/MERLY** 

Room Rate:

249.00

AL:

HH#

156058537 BLUE

VAT#

Folio No/Che

758881 A

Confirmation Number: 3150848886

GRAND WAILEA RESORT AND SPA 3/25/2015 8:06:00 AM

DATE	DESCRIPTION	ID	REF NO	CHARGES	CREDIT	BALANCE
11/4/2014	Advance Deposit VS *9008	EWRIGHT	12710701		(\$564.81)	
12/2/2014	RESORT CHARGE - \$ 15	NMEDEI	12815789	\$15.00		
12/2/2014	EXCISE TAX	NMEDEI	12815789	\$0.62		
12/2/2014	HOUSEKEEPING GRATUITY	NMEDEI	12815790	\$3.00		
12/2/2014	EXCISE TAX	NMEDEL	12815790	\$0.12		
12/2/2014	GUEST ROOM	NMEDEI	12815791	\$249.00		
12/2/2014	ROOM TAX	NMEDEL	12815791	\$23.03		
12/2/2014	EXCISE TAX - ROOM	NMEDEL	12815791	\$10.37		
12/3/2014	SPA GRANDE	LINTR	12817162	\$192.71		
12/3/2014	SPA GRANDE	LINTR	12817212	\$30.00		
12/3/2014	BISTRO MOLOKINI	LINTR	12817326	\$27.96		
12/3/2014	BOTERO BAR	LINTR	12817766	\$15.54		
2/3/2014	RESORT CHARGE - \$ 15	JMCPH	12818975	\$15.00		
2/3/2014	EXCISE TAX	<b>JMCPH</b>	12818975	\$0.62		
12/3/2014	HOUSEKEEPING GRATUITY	JMCPH	12818976	\$3.00		
12/3/2014	EXCISE TAX	<b>JMCPH</b>	12818976	\$0.12		
12/3/2014	PORTERAGE/BAGGAGE HANDLING	JMCPH	12818977	\$10.00		
12/3/2014	EXCISE TAX	JMCPH	12818977	\$0.42		
12/3/2014	GUEST ROOM	JMCPH	12818978	\$249.00		
12/3/2014	ROOM TAX	JMCPH	12818978	\$23,03		
12/3/2014	EXCISE TAX - ROOM	JMCPH	12818978	\$10.37		
12/4/2014	MOVIE	LINTR	12821086	\$36.45		
12/4/2014	BOTERO BAR	LINTR	12821094	\$18.62		9
12/4/2014	RESORT CHARGE - \$ 15	<b>JMCPH</b>	12822510	\$15.00		
12/4/2014	EXCISE TAX	JMCPH	12822510	\$0.62		
12/4/2014	HOUSEKEEPING GRATUITY	JMCPH	12822511	\$3.00		
12/4/2014	EXCISE TAX	JMCPH	12822511	\$0.12		
12/4/2014	GUEST ROOM	JMCPH	12822512	\$249.00		
12/4/2014	ROOM TAX	JMCPH	12822512	\$23.03		

Page:1

MAY, LEE

7593 POPLAR FALLS STREET

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

LITHONIA GA 30058

Room No:

8074/Q2DV

Arrival Date:

12/2/2014 11:02:00 PM 12/6/2014 12:56:00 PM

Departure Date: Adult/Child:

1/0

Cashler ID:

MERLYA/MERLY

Room Rate:

AL:

249.00

HH#

156058537 BLUE

VAT#

Folio No/Che

758881 A

Confirmation Number: 3150848886

GRAND WAILEA RESORT AND SPA 3/25/2015 8:06:00 AM

DATE	DESCRIPTION	D	REF NO	CHARGES	CREDIT	BALANCE
12/4/2014	EXCISE TAX - ROOM	JMCPH	12822512	\$10.37		
12/5/2014	RESORT CHARGE - \$ 15	TKEA	12826220	\$15,00		
12/5/2014	EXCISE TAX	TKEA	12826220	\$0.62		
12/5/2014	HOUSEKEEPING GRATUITY	TKEA	12826221	\$3.00		
12/5/2014	EXCISE TAX	TKEA	12826221	\$0.12		
12/5/2014	GUEST ROOM	TKEA	12826222	\$249.00		
12/5/2014	ROOM TAX	TKEA	12826222	\$23.03		
12/5/2014	EXCISE TAX - ROOM	TKEA	12826222	\$10.37		
12/6/2014	VS *0138	CBARAY	12827204		(\$971.45	5)

\*\*BALANCE\*\*

\$0.00

CREDIT CARD DETAIL

APPR CODE CARD NUMBER

TRANSACTION ID

056271 12710701

VS \*9008

MERCHANT ID

EXP DATE TRANS TYPE 55129 10/16

Sale

# **EXHIBIT F**





May 31, 2012

Ms. Kathie Gannon 1300 Commerce Drive 5th Floor Decatur, GA 30030

Dear Ms. Gannon,

Thank you for the \$100 donation to the DeKalb Library Foundation for an engraved brick at the Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library. On behalf of the DeKalb Library Foundation, we appreciate your support of DeKalb County Public Library.

In August 2012, a personalized brick which reads:

COMMISSIONER KATHIE GANNON DISTRICT 6

will be installed in the entry sidewalk of the Tucker – Reid H. Cofer Library. You will be notified in July 2012 about the installation date.

Your generous donation will help continue building the future of this library while leaving a lasting legacy. Your gift provides the DeKalb County Public Library with the resources necessary to develop programs, services and the collection. Thank you for leaving your mark in support of the library which educates and enriches future generations.

Sincerely,

Patricia W. Pickard, President DeKalb Library Foundation

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GIFT RECEIPT

Amount:

\$100

Gift Type:

2012 Brick Donation - Tucker - Reid H. Cofer Library

Date:

5/25/2012

The DeKalb Library Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services were received in exchange for this contribution.

#### Yes, I want to leave my mark at the Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library! at \$100 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_ total donation. Choose up to 3 lines and 14 characters per line (includes spaces and Quantity of 4" X 8" Bricks \_\_\_ punctuation). Print Name: First, Middle, Last Name + suffix (Jr., Sr.) or Company, Foundation or Family [Last Name]. Please indicate in memory or in honor of on brick layout. Brick order text and receipt will be confirmed within 30 days. Please review order confirmation carefully. Brick DONATE online www.dekalblibrary.org/support/library-foundation.html OR Check enclosed for \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to DeKalb Library Foundation. OR Charge my donation to VISA Master Card American Express (all fields below required for charge donations) Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_CVV2# \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_ Address\_ City\_\_\_ \_\_ Phone \_ Email \_ Acknowledge Brick to: NAME.\_\_\_ \_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_City Address The DeKalb Library Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supporting DeKalb County Public Library. THANK YOU for your tax deductible gift. MAIL THIS FORM TO: DeKalb Library Foundation, 215 Sycamore Street, Decatur, GA 30030 • Questions? 404-370-8450 x 2238

#### **DeKalb Library Foundation**

215 Sycamore Street Decatur, GA 30030





#### Walldorff, Michelle M.

From:

kathie gannon [kathiegannon@mac.com]

Sent:

Friday, December 13, 2013 2:35 PM

To:

Gannon, Kathie

Subject:

Re: Comm Gannon gift to Library

What libraries are in my D? Dunwoody, Chamblee, toco Hills Brookhaven?

Tobie Grant just seems to have more need.

Sent from my iPhone

Kathie

On Dec 13, 2013, at 12:58 PM, "Gannon, Kathie" < kgannon@dekalbcountyga.gov> wrote:

I need to get the check in. How do you feel about these gifts? Any preference?

Michelle Walldorff

Constituent Services Coordinator

Office of Commissioner Kathie Gannon

Super District 6

Manuel J Maloof Center 1300 Commerce Drive Decatur, GA 30030

PH: 404,371,4909 FAX: 404,371,7004

www.kathiegannon.com

<image001.png>

<image002.png>

From: weissingera@gmail.com [mailto:weissingera@gmail.com] On Behalf Of Alison Welssinger

Sent: Monday, December 02, 2013 9:14 AM

To: Gannon, Kathie

Subject: Re: Comm Gannon gift to Library

Hi Michelle--

Wow, that is wonderful! Would she like it to go for Tobic again this year or another branch in her district? The other thing that comes to mind is possibly extra support for an outreach program we do each year at the Chamblee Library. It's called PRIME TIME Family Reading Time. I have pasted in a description of the program below. This is a program created by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities that is replicated by public libraries all across the country. We usually apply for funding from Georgia Public Library Service to do this program each year, but it is never enough to cover the entire cost of the program. We pull together the rest we need from a variety of sources. In addition to paying for the scholar and storyteller, we give sets of books to each family, give them Marta tokens and feed them dinner. We are trying to remove all the barriers and encourage them to become regular library users. We target Spanish-speaking families and work with the local elementary schools to identify families that could benefit from the program.

In any case, let me know if this might be of interest. Thanks so much!

Commissioner Gannon would like to give a gift to the Library this year. Can you make a suggestion? It will be the same as last year for 1000.00. Last year's gift was towards a homework helper at Tobie Grant. Have a happy Thanksgiving!

#### Michelle Walldorff

Constituent Services Coordinator

Office of Commissioner Kathie Gannon

Super District 6

Manuel J Maloof Center 1300 Commerce Drive Decatur, GA 30030

PH: 404.371.4909 FAX: 404.371.7004

www.kathiegannon.com

<image001.png>

<image002.png>



December 23, 2013

Kathie Gannon 1300 Commerce Drive Decatur, GA 30030

Dear Ms. Gannon,

On behalf of the DeKalb Library Foundation, thank you for your very generous donation of \$1,000 to support the DeKalb County Public Library. Your gift to this library is an investment in our community, providing the DeKalb County Public Library with the resources to fund literary and children's programs, literacy services and the book and materials collection.

DeKalb citizens are using the library more than ever with over 4.6 million visits (including online services such as databases) and 3.6 million books, e-books, audio books, CDs and DVDs checked out in 2012. It is our vision through the work of the DeKalb Library Foundation to grow a more educated, literate community. This library is a partner in education in DeKalb County, with a focus on early childhood and youth reading programs,

Your gift will have an impact on this library, as private philanthropy is especially important in strengthening current services. Thank you for your support for a strong public library.

Sincerely.

Patricia W. Pickard, President **DeKalb Library Foundation** 

Petricia W. Gickard

GIFT RECEIPT

Amount:

\$1,000

Gift Type:

2013 General Contribution

Date:

12/19/2013

The DeKalb Library Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services were received in exchange for this contribution.

#### Walldorff, Michelle M.

From:

foundation@dekalblibrary.org

Sent:

Thursday, December 19, 2013 3:11 PM

To:

Gannon, Kathle

Subject:

Online Donation Confirmation

This email is a confirmation that your online entry at the site of DeKalb Library Foundation was received. The following information was recorded:

First Name: Kathie Last Name: Gannon

Address: 1300 Commerce Drive

City: Decatur State: GA

Postal Code: 30030

Email: kgannon@dekalbcountyga.gov

Phone: 4043714909 Amount: \$1,000.00 Fund: General

Comments: This contribution is for the Tobie Grant Homework Helper. Please consult with

Alison Weissinger regarding this contribution.

Gift Frequency: One-Time

Circle of Giving: Publishers Circle Approach Name: Foundation Website Campaign Name: General Donation

YES! I want to make a General Contribution.

If any of your information is incorrect, or if you have any questions, please contact DeKalb Library Foundation at 404-370-8450 x 2238 or foundation@dekalblibrary.org.

Thank you very much!