CITY OF ATLANTA

SHIRLEY FRANKLIN
MAYOR

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May 18, 2006

Council President Lisa Borders
Members of the Atlanta City Council
City Hall 2nd Floor Suite 2900
55 Trinity Avenue, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30335

Dear President Borders and Members of Council:

I hereby return with my veto, Ordinance # **06-O-0980**

On May15, 2006 the Atlanta City Council adopted Ordinance # **06-O-0980** which purports to amend the Ethics Code so as to exclude from the definition of "gratuity", hospitality or meals from any source having a value of $75.00 or less and to allow for the acceptance of any non-pecuniary gift, ticket, or other thing of value, the value of which is $100.00 or less for venues in the City.

Since 2002 when I took office I have been steadfast in my stewardship as Chief Executive Officer to maintain transparent, open, and honest government. During the first 100 days of my first term I actively participated in an effort to reform the ethics code and thus the ethics culture in city government. As a result of the hard work by a committee of citizens, the council received a revised ordinance overhauling the ethics code, which was ultimately discussed and adopted. Since the enactment of the new ethics code, all city personnel have conducted business with greater transparency.

Ordinance **#06-O-0980** seeks to significantly modify the way elected officials and city employees operate from an ethical perspective. There is not even a requirement for public disclosure of any gratuities that are accepted. The reach of the proposed legislation is too broad and its intent is moving diametrically in the opposite direction to course we have charted.

This is simply bad public policy and I will not support it.

Based on the rationale as outlined in this letter, I urge you to sustain my veto of Ordinance# **06-O-0980**.

Sincerely,

Shirley Franklin