

City of Atlanta  
Governing Board of the Office of the Inspector General and the Ethics Office

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BOARD MEMBERS  
Nichola R. Hines, Chair  
Todd A. Gray, Vice Chair  
Rebecca F.M. Brubaker  
Andrew I. Cohen  
Natalie S. Lewis  
Lisa K. Liang  
Terri R. Simmons  
E. Richard Taylor  
Cecily V.M. Welch



Ethics Office  
atlantaethics.org  
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## STATEMENT OF CONCERN

Dear Mayor Dickens and Task Force Members,

The undersigned members<sup>1</sup> of the Governing Board of the Office of Inspector General and Ethics Office write to express our deep concerns regarding recent mischaracterizations and assumptions the Chief of Staff presented during the Committee on Council meeting. The Governing Board has made consistent efforts to address the Mayor's Office and the Law Department's concerns about the Office of Inspector General (OIG). On two separate occasions, both the Mayor's Office and the Law Department were invited to address the Governing Board directly during public meetings to discuss various issues. Regrettably, neither the Mayor's Office nor the Law Department attended. In the spirit of collaboration, the Governing Board even agreed to split into smaller sessions to meet with the Chief of Staff and the City Attorney to establish meaningful dialogue. The sentiments expressed by the Governing Board in those meetings were never intended to convey a lack of support for the OIG's work. The Governing Board's primary objectives have been ensuring the independence of the OIG and Ethics Office and ensuring our ability to have effective oversight over both the OIG and the Ethics Office. Additionally, we reiterate our concerns with the City's attempts to hinder the OIG's work and efforts to compromise its independence and its low responsiveness to the OIG's recommendations, all of which affect its progress toward integrity, transparency, and accountability.

On multiple occasions, we requested City leadership, including the executive cabinet, engage in learning sessions with experts, such as the President of the Association of Inspectors General, Georgia's Inspector General, and other established IG professionals, and that we complete these meetings prior to legislative changes. Unfortunately, the Mayor's Office dismissed these requests as unnecessary and costly.

Recent presentations and comments unfairly characterize the Governing Board as unsupportive of the Office of Inspector General. This is categorically false. We have continuously expressed support for the critical work of an independent Office of Inspector General and sought constructive dialogue with the executive team. We believed open conversations were happening between the Governing Board and the Mayor's Office; however, we were blindsided by the proposal that did not align with our concerns.

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<sup>1</sup> Todd A. Gray, Vice Chair abstains

We remain committed to transparency and accountability and look forward to a genuine dialogue that includes input from the Governing Board, OIG, Ethics Office, and established IG and ethics experts.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Nichola R. Hines, Chair

Rebecca F. M. Brubaker

Andrew I. Cohen

Natalie S. Lewis

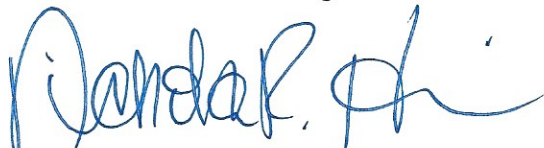
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Members of the Governing Board of the Office of Inspector General and Ethics Office

  
Chair 9.18.24