



# CITY OF ATLANTA

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ETHICS OFFICE  
Ginny Looney, Ethics Officer

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September 22, 2006

Councilmember Clela Winslow  
City of Atlanta  
55 Trinity Avenue, Suite 2700  
Atlanta, GA 30303

RE: Ethics Complaint CO-05-004

Dear Councilmember Winslow:

I am writing to confirm our settlement agreement concerning the ethics complaint filed against you last fall.

As you recall, the Ethics Office received an anonymous complaint alleging that you distributed a city-financed newsletter at a candidates' forum in September 2005 at the Pittsburgh Recreation Center. The forum was held after you filed for reelection. You confirmed that you had distributed constituent newsletters at the forum and said that you thought you were complying with the ethics rules. You stated that it was your understanding that you could not hand out political literature on city property and that you were required to hand out non-campaign literature at any public facility.

Based on the evidence, I have concluded that you did violate section 2-811 of the Code of Ethics by distributing a city-funded newsletter as campaign literature at a political forum during your campaign for reelection last fall. The public at large is not able to use city funds to finance newsletters that they hand out at political forums, and the distribution of newsletters at a political forum is not official city business.

I also find, however, that this violation was unintentional due to confusion about the rules on distributing literature and insubstantial since you could have distributed the same newsletter at the same facility on other days.

Because your violation was unintentional and insubstantial and you have agreed to avoid similar activity in the future, I have decided that the matter should be resolved without a public hearing before the board. You have agreed to cease and desist from future activity of this nature and to follow the attached guidelines that the Board of Ethics adopted on use of city property by officials and employees in future campaigns. With that agreement, I am closing this case and will report to the board that the complaint alleging a candidate's improper use of city property has been resolved.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

  
Ginny Looney

EXHIBIT

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