

**IN THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION
OF THE DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS**

VERNON JONES,

Complainant,

v.

STACEY KALBERMAN, in her official
capacity

Respondent.

Filed: March 20, 2017

RHEA JOHNSON,

Complainant,

v.

STACEY KALBERMAN and
DAN DeWOSKIN, in their official capacities

Respondents.

Filed: March 23, 2017

AMOS KING,

Complainant,

v.

STACEY KALBERMAN, ROBERT
TATUM, DAN DeWOSKIN,
SHERMANETTA CARTER,
SCOTT BONDER, BRIAN DEUTSCH
and GREG RUSSELL, in their official
Capacities

Respondents.

Filed: March 27, 2017

Refiled: April 25, 2017

RHEA JOHNSON,)	
)	
<i>Complainant,</i>)	
)	
v.)	<i>Filed: June 29, 2017</i>
)	
STACEY KALBERMAN,)	
SHERMANETTA CARTER, BRIAN)	
DEUTSCH, ROBERT TATUM, in their)	
official capacities)	
)	
<i>Respondents.</i>)	
)	

ORDER OF NO PROBABLE CAUSE

Complainants Vernon Jones, Amos King, and Rhea Johnson filed the above-referenced Complaints alleging that Respondents, Stacey Kalberman, Shermanetta Carter, Brian Deutsch, Robert Tatum, Dan DeWoskin, Scott Bonder, and Greg Russell, in their official capacities as members of the DeKalb County Board of Ethics (“the Board”), violated Georgia House Bill 597(i)(2) (“HB 597”) by lobbying the Georgia legislature to revise the member selection and appointment process, among other provisions, of the DeKalb County Code of Ethics. After considering the consolidated briefs of the parties, and the exhibits attached thereto, the Hearing Officer in this matter finds that there is no probable cause to believe that the Respondents violated HB 597, prohibiting the DeKalb Ethics Officer from engaging in “political activities,” as none of the four complaints identify an ethical prohibition in either state or local law which bars the activity in which they contend the Ethics Officer engaged.

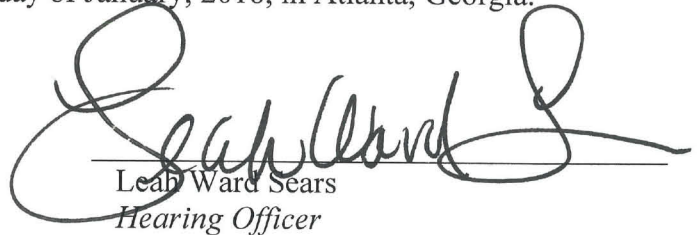
Furthermore, the Hearing officer hereby finds no probable cause for a hearing on either of Rhea Johnson’s Complaints, the first alleging that the Board committed an ethical violation by falsely appealing a court order striking down the appointment process for certain Board members as such claims have no foundation in either state or local law. (Additionally, a court of law has

already rejected a motion to strike the appeal.) Second, the Hearing Officer finds no probable cause as to the Board's previous *wholly discretionary* decision to dismiss Mr. Johnson's complaint against former DeKalb County CEO Burrell Ellis.

Moreover, the Hearing officer further finds that she has both the authority and jurisdiction to resolve each of the Complaints, as delegated by the Board according to its own authority and jurisdiction, and also that the Complainants have alleged no facts necessitating that she recuse herself for bias or partiality as those terms are defined by law.

In view of the foregoing, there is no need for additional fact-finding, and a hearing on the merits is unnecessary. The four Complaints filed on March 20th, March 23rd, March 27th (refiled April 25th), and June 29th, 2017, are all DISMISSED as a matter of law.

DONE AND ENTERED on this 24th day of January, 2018, in Atlanta, Georgia.



Leah Ward Sears
Hearing Officer

Copies furnished to:

VIA E-MAIL & REGISTERED MAIL

Ms. Kimberly Worth

Ms. Katy Aultman

Thrasher Worth

5 Concourse Parkway, Suite 3200

Atlanta, Georgia 30328

kworth@thrasherworth.com

kaultman@thrasherworth.com

VIA E-MAIL & REGISTERED MAIL

Mr. Dwight L. Thomas

The Law Offices of Dwight L. Thomas, P.C.

2296 Henderson Mill Road, Suite 407

Atlanta, Georgia 30345

dwightl654@gmail.com

VIA E-MAIL & REGISTERED MAIL

Mr. Gene Chapman

Ms. LaTonya Nix Wiley

DeKalb County Board of Ethics

30 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

Decatur, GA 30030

genechapman@dekalbcountyga.gov

lnwiley@dekalbcountyga.gov

VIA E-MAIL & REGISTERED MAIL

Mr. Darren Summerville

Mr. Kurt Kastorf

Mr. Max Thelan

The Summerville Firm, LLC

400 Colony Square

1201 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 2000

Atlanta, Georgia 30361

darren@summervillefirm.com

kurt@summervillefirm.com

max@summervillefirm.com

VIA E-MAIL & REGISTERED MAIL

Mr. Rhea Johnson

2546 Wilson Woods Drive

Decatur, Georgia 30033

rjohnson58@comcast.net