

3531 Evans Ridge Drive
Atlanta, GA 30341
July 31, 2019

The Honorable Asha Jackson
Chief Judge
Superior Court of DeKalb County
DeKalb County Courthouse
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Dear Judge Jackson:

I'm a longtime DeKalb resident. I'm also a blogger and have, for the past two years plus, observed the DeKalb Board of Voter Registration and Elections. I write a political blog, and I'd like to inform the public about the new selection procedure for the Board under Georgia's recently enacted Senate Bill 246.

I have received and reviewed your letter orders of appointment dated June 17 and June 18 to Ms. Erica Hamilton. While the new way of appointing partisan members to the Board is clear-cut and doesn't represent a radical departure from the prior method, this isn't the case with the selection of the fifth "at large" member.

It would be helpful if the public understood what happened. I'm more than happy to meet with you at your convenience for an interview on the topic or discuss the issues by phone. Understanding that you have a busy schedule, I have taken the liberty of preparing some questions below, if you'd prefer to provide written responses. Please note some of the questions are multi-part:

- 1) Are you aware of any effort the DeKalb County Board of Elections and Registration made to publicize the "at-large" opening and invite applicants following enactment of Senate Bill 246?
- 2) Did you or your office publicize the "at-large" opening or recruit applicants?
- 3) Did Samuel Tillman make a formal application for the at-large post? If so, when did Mr. Tillman do so?
- 4) Was Mr. Tillman the only person you considered? Did you interview him?
- 5) Did the DeKalb County Board of Elections and Registration, the DeKalb Democratic Party, or the DeKalb Republican Party, provide the names of any applicants for the "at-large" post? If so, how many? And if such information is public record, could you please provide the names?
- 6) Were you aware that the appointee, Samuel Tillman, had applied for one of the Democratic seats on the Board and was rejected? If so, did this cause any concerns?

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7) Could you state the reason(s) you chose Mr. Tillman?

8) In the future (2021 and beyond), how should applicants for the at-large position proceed with applications?

9) Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I appreciate the job you do for the people of DeKalb County and your assistance in this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Grant

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