



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 2, 2009**

**Contact:** Sonya Moste, Director of Marketing and Public Relations

**Phone:** 404.614.8281

**E-mail:** [smoste@atlantada.com](mailto:smoste@atlantada.com)

**John F. Woodham and Citizens for Ethics in Government Sanctioned,  
Must Reimburse Defendants \$430,000**

ATLANTA – Earlier this week, Fulton County Superior Court Judge Michael D. Johnson ruled in favor of the Atlanta Development Authority and its co-defendants, 13<sup>th</sup> Street Holdings, LLC and Mezzo Development, LLC, both affiliated with Georgia-based real estate and investment firm Tivoli Properties, Inc., in lease-purchase bond matters.

On November 17, 2008, attorney John F. Woodham and Citizens for Ethics in Government intervened in two bond validation proceedings, attempting to block the issuance of bonds related to two commercial developments for rental housing and retail services.

On June 30, 2009, Judge Johnson ruled that Woodham and Citizens for Ethics in Government must reimburse more than \$430,000 in attorneys' fees incurred by ADA and its co-defendants as a result of Woodham's intervention. Judge Johnson's fee award was pursuant to an Order he previously entered on May 21, 2009, holding that Woodham and Citizens for Ethics in Government intervened in the bond validation proceedings last year for an "improper purpose" and that Woodham's conduct was in "bad faith" and "unethical." Moreover, Woodham must certify by affidavit that he has paid the attorneys' fees before he can file a claim or intervene in any bond validation or tax proceeding.

Lease-purchase bonds are an economic development tool used for the past 20 years by development authorities across the state of Georgia. "Incentives like lease-purchase bonds are necessary for business and investment development," says ADA President Peggy McCormick. "We are committed to defending our use of the tools available to us. We participate in this type of transaction when we determine a project will promote and further the development of trade, commerce and employment within the city of Atlanta."

**ABOUT ATLANTA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

The Atlanta Development Authority is the official economic development agency for the city of Atlanta. ADA represents intown Atlanta, which has a population of 538,000 and growing. ADA is a research-based economic development organization, focused on residential, business and investment growth in the city. Visit [www.atlantada.com](http://www.atlantada.com).