



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item

File ID: 2023-0558

Substitute

Public Hearing: YES NO

Department: Board of Commissioner - District 6

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

A Resolution Requesting a Study Regarding the Possibility of Establishing a Police Civilian Review Board in DeKalb County.

Information Contact: Commissioner Edward C. "Ted" Terry

Phone Number: 404-371-4909

PURPOSE:

To adopt a resolution requesting that the Chief Operating Officer create a competitive procurement process to research the possibility of establishing a police civilian review board in DeKalb County.

NEED/IMPACT:

To promote transparency and encourage community engagement with law enforcement.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal impact not known at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the resolution and authorize the chief executive officer to execute all necessary documents.....

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING A STUDY REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A POLICE CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Police Department serves as the primary law enforcement agency within DeKalb County; and

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Police Department has a responsibility to protect and serve all residents of the county; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta and other local governments have established police civilian review boards; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County seeks to increase transparency and public engagement in public safety operations and services; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County seeks to explore the possibility of creating a police civilian review board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County, Georgia, requests that the Chief Operating Officer develop a competitive procurement process to hire a consultant to do the following:

- 1) Research whether a police civilian review board is needed for DeKalb County's law enforcement and community relations goals at this time and make a recommendation on that question before proceeding with other work. The consultant's research on this question should include (but not necessarily be limited to):
 - a. research regarding successes and failures of police civilian review boards in Georgia and throughout the United States, including but not limited to whether police civilian review boards have had negative impacts on police recruiting and/or retention in other jurisdictions;
 - b. research regarding whether police civilian review boards in other jurisdictions have been created proactively, or in response to local incidents;
 - c. assessment of whether a police civilian review board would fill specific and identifiable present needs of the DeKalb County community; and
 - d. discussion with the DeKalb Police Chief and other DeKalb Police representatives regarding the potential impacts of a police civilian review board on DeKalb Police recruiting, retention and morale.
- 2) If the consultant recommends proceeding with proposed plans for a police civilian review board in DeKalb County, the consultant will be expected to perform research and make recommendations regarding the following:

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- a. What powers and functions should the DeKalb County governing authority consider granting to a police civilian review board?
- b. How should the members of a police civilian review board be chosen, and what criteria and/or qualifications should be required for such members?
- c. What training should be provided to members of a police civilian review board?
- d. A scope of work outlining policy and procedures that comply with all necessary local, state, and federal statutes to ensure that any future board does not hinder the disciplinary, investigatory, or prosecutorial authority of any other authorized local, state, or federal department, agency, or body.
- e. What level of civilian review is appropriate in oversight of video surveillance practices by DeKalb County Police?

When conducting such research, the consultant should consider any and all federal, state, and local laws applicable to DeKalb County, including the County's Organizational Act, which defines the authority of the Board of Commissioners and of the Chief Executive Officer. The consultant should also obtain input from the DeKalb County community, consider the work done by the City of Atlanta, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, and other local governments nationwide in developing police civilian review boards, and consider any and all other information deemed relevant by the consultant.

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ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, 2024.

MEREDA DAVIS JOHNSON
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer, this ____ day of _____, 2024.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BARBARA H. SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC
Clerk to the
Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
County Attorney
DeKalb County