

**A RESOLUTION BY COMMISSIONER MEREDA DAVIS JOHNSON,  
COMMISSIONER LARRY JOHNSON AND THE DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP, CEO MICHAEL  
THURMOND AND ALL DEKALB COUNTY MAYORS ESTABLISH “POINT OF  
CARE” ON-SITE TESTING FACILITIES IN LOW INCOME AREAS WITHIN  
DEKALB COUNTY IN ORDER TO PROTECT MINORITIES THAT ARE BEING  
DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY COVID – 19 AND TO COLLECT AND  
ACCURATELY REPORT RACIAL COVID – 19 DATA ON RATES OF INFECTION BY  
CASE AND OUTCOME.**

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus “COVID – 19” outbreak as a pandemic; as a result, the United States, the State of Georgia, and County of DeKalb are currently responding to stop the spread of the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a national emergency in response to the COVID – 19 pandemic and on March 14, 2020, the Governor of Georgia issued a public health state of emergency to address the COVID – 19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 23, 2020, DeKalb County CEO Michael L. Thurmond issued an Executive Order declaring a public health and economic state of emergency in DeKalb County; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 27, 2020, DeKalb County CEO Michael L. Thurmond issued an Executive Order declaring a state of emergency and ordering DeKalb County residents to Shelter-In-Place; and

**WHEREAS**, as of May 4, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that there were a total number of 1,122,486 confirmed COVID – 19 cases and 65,735 deaths due to the disease in the United States and its territories; and

**WHEREAS**, as of May 4, 2020, the Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH) reported that there were a total number of 29,283 confirmed COVID – 19 cases and 1,275 deaths due to the disease in the State of Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, the DeKalb County Board of Health reported that there were a total number of 1,932 confirmed COVID – 19 cases and 44 deaths due to the disease in DeKalb County; and

**WHEREAS**, of the 1,932 cases reported on May 1, 2020, 801 cases did not reflect racial data and of the 1,131 cases that did identify by race, 64% identified as Black, 23% identified as White, 7% identified as other, 6% identified as Asian; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health, African Americans in Georgia outnumber those contracting and dying from COVID – 19 by more than a 2-to-1 ratio; and

**WHEREAS**, in the State of Louisiana, African Americans are 32% of the population but account for 70% of the deaths from the Coronavirus; in Michigan, African Americans are 14% of the

population but account for 40% of the deaths from the Coronavirus; and in the State of Georgia, African Americans account for 49% of the deaths from the Coronavirus; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the information reported by the Georgia Department of Public Health, 36% of those with the disease in the State of Georgia are African American; and

**WHEREAS**, early data is making it apparent that African Americans are disproportionately dying from COVID – 19 because of higher poverty rates and experience poorer health outcomes than the national average due to systematic inequality; in addition, preexisting conditions such as hypertension, asthma, and diabetes are common in the African American community and increase the likelihood of having complications from COVID - 19; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans are less likely to receive COVID – 19 testing and are more likely to work low wage “essential” jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, to reduce the spread of COVID – 19, testing opportunities should be established for Georgia’s most vulnerable communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Food and Drug Administration approved Cellex, Chembio, and Ortho Clinical Diagnostic’s ability to market new COVID – 19 antibody tests; and

**WHEREAS**, State, County, and City leaders are requesting Governor Brian Kemp, DeKalb CEO Michael Thurmond and all DeKalb County Mayors to coordinate COVID – 19 response efforts and to expand COVID – 19 testing in communities disproportionately impacted by COVID – 19; and

**WHEREAS**, during this local emergency and in the interest of protecting public health, preventing transmission of COVID – 19 is essential; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners requests that Governor Brian Kemp, CEO Michael Thurmond and DeKalb County Mayors establish “point of care” on-site testing facilities in low income areas in DeKalb County in order to protect minorities that are being disproportionately impacted by COVID – 19 and to collect and accurately report racial COVID – 19 data on rates of infection by case and outcome.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that upon adoption, the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Governor Brian Kemp, the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Health, Dr. Kathleen Toomey, M.D., the DeKalb County Municipal Association, the DeKalb County Board of Health and members of the DeKalb County House and Senate Delegations.

5.5.2020

**ADOPTED** by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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STEPHEN BRADSHAW  
Presiding Officer  
Board of Commissioners  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**APPROVED** by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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MICHAEL L. THURMOND  
Chief Executive Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**ATTEST:**

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BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC  
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and  
Chief Executive Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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VIVIANE H. ERNSTES  
County Attorney  
DeKalb County, Georgia