

**A RESOLUTION TO ALLOCATE DEKALB COUNTY
FUNDING FOR THE CREATION OF A HOUSING PLAN
FOR DEKALB COUNTY**

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest of DeKalb County government to ensure economically accessible, safe and healthy housing for all of its residents; and

WHEREAS, it is in DeKalb County's economic interests to promote the preservation and production of economically accessible, safe and healthy housing throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County is experiencing a surge in the cost of renting and owning a home, whereby the cost of purchasing a home has doubled or tripled since 2013 in almost all DeKalb communities, and average rents per square foot have risen more than 50% during the same period; and

WHEREAS, since 2018 the appreciation of wages has lagged that of rents and property values; and

WHEREAS, more than 50% of DeKalb County households who rent their home are cost burdened, meaning more than 30% of household income is spent on housing costs, and over 25% of DeKalb County households who rent their home are *severely* cost burdened meaning more than 50% of household income is spent on housing costs; and

WHEREAS, the production of new rental housing in DeKalb County has shrunk by half since the 1990's while becoming more expensive to rent; and

WHEREAS, the results of these factors and many others related to housing in DeKalb County include significant economic stress, housing insecurity, and homelessness for far too many DeKalb County households, as well as many more additional far-reaching negative impacts such as impeded educational attainment of children, barriers to wealth-building, and an increase in negative public health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County currently lacks a Plan which lays out a vision, goals, and a timeline for a coordinated, collaborative, and effective response to these housing affordability and housing quality challenges by utilizing all relevant Departments, existing and new financial resources, land use and zoning powers, and other policy and programmatic powers at the County's disposal; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County currently lacks a Plan to coordinate and leverage public and private financial investments and policy actions for equitable housing outcomes related to other economic development plans and investments such as transit expansion, business attraction and retention, and public infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County currently lacks a Plan to address the variety of challenges to housing affordability, access and quality across the County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia, to allocate funding in the FY 2024 DeKalb County budget in the amount of \$250,000.00 for the express purpose of procuring a third-party vendor with substantial expertise in housing planning, housing finance and housing policy to create a DeKalb County Housing Plan to address these challenges and more related to the creation and retention of quality, safe, affordable housing in DeKalb County, and for adoption into the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Resolved this _____ day of _____ 2023.

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 Thurmond
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BARBARA SANDERS
County Clerk
Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer

Viviane Ernstes
County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia