

## **RESOLUTION**

### **A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO EXPLORE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING WITHIN DEKALB COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, a report was commissioned by the DeKalb County Chief Operating Officer and the Director of the DeKalb County Department of Community Development to assist the county's Affordable Housing Task Force in gaining a deeper understanding of the affordable housing challenges in DeKalb County; and

**WHEREAS**, the key objectives for the report were to:

- a. Assess the contemporary housing context as it pertains to affordable housing, from the perspectives of a national scale, Atlanta metro area, and DeKalb County.
- b. Examine the policy responses that have been taken in DeKalb County, with an emphasis on benchmarking the county's programs and strategies with those in comparable large urban counties in the Southeast.
- c. Identify selective innovative practices other jurisdictions across the nation, particularly urban counties, have taken to meet their affordable housing needs.
- d. Offer a set of specific recommendations for DeKalb County to consider in moving forward to address its affordable housing needs and opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, DeKalb County engaged Emory University's Policy Analysis Laboratory, directed by Professor Michael J. Rich, to prepare the report based on Emory's experience in completing similar analyses for the county over the past several years; and

**WHEREAS**, equitable housing affordability and availability will empower the entire Atlanta region to thrive by providing:

- a. A stronger economy - Metro Atlanta will remain a destination for employers looking to expand, which is a driver in keeping the metropolitan economy growing. Additionally, businesses will find it easier to hire and retain workers who have the access and opportunity to live close to job centers.
- b. Better quality of life - Communities and schools will become more stable, particularly as fewer families move from their residences in search of more affordable housing options. More affordable housing options also means fewer people will have to choose between meeting housing costs and putting off spending on vital services, such as healthcare.
- c. Greater opportunities and reduced inequality - Increased levels of homeownership will help residents build wealth and climb the socio-economic ladder, while reducing the "wealth gap" that exists between owners and renters.

d. Reduced traffic congestion - More people will be able to live closer to where they work. Potential benefits include fewer vehicles on the road, reduced traffic congestion, and improved air quality; and

**WHEREAS**, DeKalb County is currently updating the 2018 Housing Affordability Study with updated data points; and

**WHEREAS**, the study issued in 2018 provides the following broad recommendations:

- a. Establish a county affordable housing officer.
- b. Establish a cross-sector, collaborative advisory committee on affordable housing comprised of a broad group of affordable housing stakeholders.
- c. Establish a comprehensive data and information system to track housing conditions and needs in DeKalb County. Preparation and dissemination of a regular report on housing trends and conditions.
- d. Connect with other efforts in the region to promote and sustain affordable housing; and

**WHEREAS**, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners has the prerogative and the power to establish a cross-sector, collaborative advisory committee on affordable housing, through its standing rules on ad hoc committees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners wishes to establish an advisory committee to work collaboratively and cooperatively with various department heads and the administration to explore and make recommendations related to affordable housing within the County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as follows:

- 1. Name:** The official name of this advisory committee will be the DeKalb Housing Affordability and Accessibility Committee
- 2. Mission:** To provide informed professional input concerning DeKalb County's housing policies and procedures in accordance with applicable law, regulation, and budgetary constraints. The committee will make recommendations to the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners for procedures regarding affordable housing.
- 3. Specific Goals:** The advisory committee shall study and provide input and suggestions, as legally appropriate, regarding: (1) progressing the recommendations referred within the 2018 DeKalb County Housing Affordability Study; (2) assess and review new affordable housing strategies and incentives; (3) Review the County's current policies and procedures as related to of affordable housing; (4) Review the County's Land Development Regulations as they relate to the provision of affordable and workforce housing, and other policy goals as forwarded by the committee.

4. **Membership:** The advisory committee shall be comprised of three (3) members of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, as follows: District 6 Commissioner Edward “Ted” Terry; **INSERT NAMES OF ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONERS**. After formation of the committee, the committee will have the ability to appoint additional stakeholders to join the committee as official members at the table.
  
5. As directed by the Chief Executive Officer or Chief Operating Officer, County staff may include, but be not limited to, the DeKalb County departments of Community Development, Planning and Sustainability, Code Compliance, the DeKalb County Land Bank Authority, and DeKalb County Chief Operating Officer’s staff, may be asked to assist the Committee’s efforts as appropriate.
  
6. **Rules and Committees:** The Committee is authorized, but not required, to develop procedural rules, and is authorized to create sub-committees to study various issues and make reports to the Committee.

**ADOPTED** by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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**ROBERT PATRICK**  
 Presiding Officer  
 Board of Commissioners  
 DeKalb County, Georgia

**APPROVED** by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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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