

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH INDEPENDENT CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT AND AUDITING FOR DEKALB COUNTY'S DIGITAL SHIELD INITIATIVE AND SURVEILLANCE INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, DeKalb County is committed to utilizing modern, innovative technology to investigate criminal activity, identify wanted suspects, and improve emergency response times to keep our communities safe; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has recently launched the Digital Shield Initiative, including the opening of a \$2 million Real Time Crime Center (RTCC), an \$18.9 million expansion of the Flock Safety camera network, and the integration of the FUSUS system through "Connect DeKalb County" to access private security feeds during emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the unprecedented capital investment of over \$20 million in digital surveillance infrastructure necessitates rigorous, ongoing auditing to ensure these public resources are utilized ethically, transparently, and strictly for their intended law enforcement purposes; and

WHEREAS, the expanding scope of real-time digital surveillance, data sharing, and private camera integration raises valid and significant community concerns regarding data privacy, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and the potential for unauthorized access or misuse; and

WHEREAS, fostering genuine neighborhood democracy requires that residents have a transparent, independent avenue to address concerns regarding the digital surveillance footprint in their communities, ensuring that community-police partnerships are built on a foundation of verifiable trust rather than merely broad policy statements; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners that:

SECTION 1. The Board of Commissioners formally requests that CEO Lorraine Cochran-Johnson and the DeKalb County Police Department (DKPD) draft and present a comprehensive policy establishing an independent Civilian Digital Oversight Board.

SECTION 2. This board shall serve as an independent ombudsman for all systems operating under the Digital Shield Initiative, including but not limited to the Real Time Crime Center, Flock Safety automated license plate readers, and the FUSUS camera integration registry.

SECTION 3. The requested policy must grant this oversight board the authority and mandate to:

- Conduct regular, independent audits of system usage logs, data sharing agreements with outside agencies, and access protocols to prevent and identify misuse.
- Review cybersecurity standards and breach-notification protocols of third-party vendors holding DeKalb County surveillance data.
- Recommend strict policy guardrails to the Board of Commissioners to safeguard the civil liberties and privacy of DeKalb County residents.
- Publish an annual, publicly available transparency report detailing the scope, effectiveness, and audit findings of the county's digital surveillance systems.

SECTION 4. The Administration is requested to present this draft policy and framework to the Board of Commissioners within ninety (90) days of the passage of this resolution.