

# DeKalb County Government

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



## Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, February 16, 2023**

**9:00 AM**

**Manuel J. Maloof Auditorium**

### **Board of Commissioners**

*Comm. Robert Patrick, Presiding Officer, District 1*

*Comm. Mereda Davis Johnson, Deputy Presiding Officer, District 5*

*Commissioner Robert Patrick, District 1*

*Commissioner Michelle Long Spears, District 2*

*Commissioner Larry Johnson, District 3*

*Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, District 4*

*Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, District 5*

*Commissioner Edward "Ted" Terry, Super District 6*

*Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, Super District 7*

**Present:** 6 - Commissioner Robert Patrick, Commissioner Michelle Long Spears, Commissioner Larry Johnson, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Ted Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

**Administration:** Michael Thurmond, CEO, Zachary Williams, Executive Assistant/ Chief Operating Officer, Barbara Sanders-Norwood, County Clerk, Viviane Ernstes, County Attorney

**A. INSPIRATIONAL**

Misihyia Pickney (Senior at Drew Charter) - YMCA Black History Month Inspirational Speech

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson- District 5

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

Mack Wilbourn - 50 Years in Business  
DeKalb County E911 Recognition

**C. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The purpose of public comment is to allow the public to voice county-related requests, concerns or opinions during the Commission meeting. Speakers will only have the opportunity for one public comment per meeting. Public comments may be made in person or submitted by sending an email no longer than one page to [PublicComments@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:PublicComments@dekalbcountyga.gov) which must be received between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Only those emails received during the allotted time may be read aloud. Public comment emails received outside of the allotted time will be included in the public comment record for the next meeting after receipt of those emails. The body of your email must include your first and last name, followed by your address. By submitting an email for public comment at any time, you agree to have your name, address and email entered into the record/minutes. Each in-person speaker must complete a speaker card and present it to the clerk before the beginning of the public comment portion of the meeting.

Cards must be turned in to the clerk from the time the general meeting is convened (generally 9 A.M.) and by the beginning of public comment portion generally following presentations on the agenda. The clerk will accept cards on a first-come, first-served basis. Prior to the clerk's call for public comment, in-person speakers who are residents of DeKalb County shall be allowed to speak before residents of other counties are allowed to speak. Once the public comment portion of the meeting begins, speaker cards will no longer be accepted. Speakers will be allowed to speak for three minutes each and public comment shall not exceed 30 minutes in length. When the buzzer sounds to indicate that time has run out, the speaker will be expected to immediately cease speaking and to yield the podium. Those in-person attendees who submitted speaker cards but did not speak because of the time allotment will be allowed to speak first at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting without regard to residence. If time remains in the proscribed public comment portion of said meeting, email comments will be read into the record by the clerk or designee. Any remaining email public comments received between 9:00 am and 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting not read into the record will be submitted into the minutes by the clerk or designee and shall be forwarded to each commissioner by email. Speakers should always talk directly into the microphone and begin by stating their name, full address and the name of any organization they represent. Abusive, profane or derogatory language, holding up signs, clapping, yelling, standing or laying in the aisles to show support for or opposition to a speaker will not be permitted, but a show of hands or quietly standing in place will be permitted to show support for or opposition to a speaker's position.

**Public Comments: In Person**

*Laura Kearns- 2149 Azalea Circle Decatur 30033, Sabrina Hassumani Esq- 33075 Colonial Way Unit A Atlanta 30341, Michael Daly- 3609-15 Montreal Creek Circle Clarkston 30021, Stephan Binney- 1083 Seville Drive Clarkston 30021, Amy Taylor- 1162 Key Road Southeast Atlanta 30316, Gloria Tatum - 1103 Willivee Drive Decatur 30033, Emilia Brock- 840 Brownwood Avenue Southeast Atlanta 30316, Lorin Dent- 226 East Davis Street Decatur 30030, Amelia Weltner- 836 Brownwood Avenue Atlanta 30316, Mark Passmore- 2154 North Forest Trail Dunwoody 30338, Brad Beadles- 2207 Greystone Way Decatur 30032, Payton Haynes- 2239 Wisteria Way Northeast Atlanta 30317*

**Public Comments: February 16, 2023- Unread Emails**

1. *Joy Martin, 220 Ponce De Leon Place Decatur- Dekalb County Zoning Board: Residents living near the site of the proposed Atlanta Public Safety Training Center, commonly known as “Cop City,” reported contractors engaging in construction work Monday morning, despite the appeal filed on behalf of Community Stakeholder Advisory Committee member and local resident Amy Taylor last week. Filing the appeal stays the power of the land disturbance permit (LDP) and makes any construction effort illegal while the appeal is pending. I support the community and the injunction requested that the Court grant a temporary restraining order (TRO) to immediately halt construction at the site until the ZBA issues its decision on the appeal, and requests that the Court retain the authority to enforce the TRO throughout that period.*

2. *Shira Concool (No Address)- My name is Shira Concool and I am a mother, voter, LEAD Atlanta alum and a Licensed Professional Counselor working with clients throughout Dekalb county. I am urging this Board to halt the work of building any police training site in the South River/Weelaunee Forest in this county. The destruction of the forest is not only illegal at this time due to permit appeal it is morally abhorrent considering the life and limb danger this construction of this site is causing to protestors and those living around the Forest. I want to be clear, those of us who protest the site are not outsiders. We live, work in, play and love the Atlanta metro area and we will not stand to see it destroyed to further pollution, harassment and caging of our citizens nor the murdering of environmental protestors. Please put the requests of your citizens above the requests of the Atlanta Police Foundation and corporations. Thank you for your time and consideration.*

3. *Katie Doyl , 206 Rogers St NE Atlanta, GA 30317- Hello, I’m writing to demand stop work of the Weelaunee / South River forest. As a person of the community, I do not believe this training facility will help our community but damage it. Communities make us safer, not police. The funding that goes into these projects and into police budget should go to resources for people. The police have never kept me safe. They’ve raided my house when I was kid and found nothing. Trauma lasts forever with that. The other night, I was seconds away from a high speed car chance that resulted in a terrifying crash, which put my life in danger over a stolen car. Our view with the police is skewed, they never have made me feel safe. Isn’t it suppose to be about public safety? The forest should also not be destroyed because the impact of removing all the living animals and plants is not a good move for the environment. Atlanta is the city in the forest and we should keep it that way. Thank you,*

4. *Meg Ha (No Address)- My name is Meg Ha and I live in Dekalb County. The current construction towards the training center is ILLEGAL due to an active permit appeal, RECKLESS, due to a lack or full study of environmental impacts, and UNDEMOCRATIC, due to ignoring dozens of hours of public comment and NATIONWIDE protests in opposition to the project. So many people have made their voices heard, opposing this facility that will perpetuate violence against our communities, ESPECIALLY against black and brown community members. The police have already murdered a protestor. There is no excuse for law enforcement to take the lives of innocent people. We saw the footage, but we didn't even need to. If the center is built, with more weapons, and more training for violent tactics against protestors and people, more lives will be taken. This cannot happen. Tortuguita was a peaceful defender of the forest, which is for us all. How could you let this happen? Don't destroy our forest, don't destroy our democracy and don't destroy our communities.*

5. *Lindsay Lewis (No Address)- I am a resident of east atlanta and am writing to express my concern and disinterest with the clearing of one of Atlanta's largest natural habitats. Atlanta has plenty of abandoned concrete jungles to revitalize instead of destroying and developing on this land. It's truly disgusting and is purely a poor political move. Who is paying our mayor and Governor off to get this accomplished? The mayor states he will plant a hundred trees? Really big whoop! Doesn't compare to the destruction of wildlife and the trees that will be destroyed that are hundreds of years old. In addition to clearing and causing havoc to the wildlife, it will contribute to the problem of pollution and jeopardize one of our largest water resources. Who thinks this is a good idea? We live and breathe thanks to the forest and trees not by our illustrious police force. I understand needing to further the education exercises of our law enforcement but there can be a better creative solution for this. Atlanta is in a state of despair these days. This training facility will do little to nothing for our Atlanta law enforcement so why proceed? Maybe think about paying our cops a better salary and requiring a higher education upon hiring. That in itself will remedy most issues we continue to have with our police. I am asking today to STOP any further destruction to our forest. Sincerely a concerted resident of Dekalb county,*

6. *Katelyn Studer, 1854 Brandywine St SW Atlanta, GA 30310- To the Dekalb County Board of Commissioners, I am writing to you today as a concerned constituent about the APF training facility being built in the Weelaunee (South River) Forest. As an Atlanta citizen who is often working and spending recreational time in Dekalb, I feel construction in this green space is a massive mistake and will have major environmental impact in a negative way on both the local and wide spread communities. The rejection of this construction by the*

*public is widespread knowledge, and the news of a young man's murder has gone to worldwide news. This cannot be Atlanta and Dekalb's reputation. We need investment and nurturing of our communities and environment - rather than investing in a police force that brutalizes and abuses us. If a new training facility is needed then it can be built elsewhere, but there is absolutely no excuse to build an urban warfare training ground for police. There is no reason for this to exist other than to terrorize Atlanta citizens. This will not make our city safer or more peaceful police - and I believe the committee knows this. Please, do not let Atlanta be known for working against its own people - instead, let it be known that this is a city that works with its communities and protects its green spaces. There is so much good that can come from walking back this project, and so much harm to be done if it continues. Thank you for your time,*

*7. Maggie Scott Nesbit, 3653 Dial Drive Stone Mountain GA 30083 - To all of us who are connected - As a Dekalb County citizen, I vigorously oppose further deforestation in our county, further militarized police violence and murder, and development of 90 million dollar Police Training Center in our community. I stand with visible and vocal opposition to this project rippling across our state, county and globe. Hear us stand united.*

*8. Brandon Allen Still (No Address)- We don't need this monstrous facility. Use the money to pay our officers more .... officer training doesn't require this destructive project. It requires good teachers and willing students. Pay them more, set higher hiring standards, support them, make it a career worth having. This expensive environmentally destructive building isn't the answer. We're already divided enough ...it's not worth further destruction and division... If there must be this big new facility find an area that's already been developed. I am an East Atlanta citizen, a father, husband, son, brother, and avid voter. I respect and love our Officers, but I say Stop Cop City please! Sincerely ,*

*9. Lillian Johnson (No Address)- Hello, My name is Lillian Johnson and I am a lifetime Dekalb County resident. I was born here, I currently live here, and I work here. I am deeply concerned about the construction of the new police training facility. The current construction is illegal due to an active permit appeal and one protester has already been murdered. Both points are deeply concerning, but even more so are the long term environmental impacts to Dekalb county residents. Not only will we lose precious, irreplaceable old growth forests, but also we will be exposed to burn smoke, noise pollution from shooting, and waste in the water. The EPA has already stated that the river here needs to be cleaned, so why would we add to the pollution burden? Pouring tax dollars (and more concerning- private money) into this training facility is dangerous*

*and ill planned. The community stands against it. This is our home! And this is not the way to keep it safe. We don't need more police or more training facilities. We need community and public green spaces. Thank you for taking my comment into consideration. Sincerely,*

*10. Manisha Lance (No Address)- Hi, My Name is Manisha Lance. I work in Dekalb County and enjoy it's beautiful parks and natural spaces. I am also a Georgia voter. I am making this comment to voice my concern about Atlanta Police Foundation's destruction of the South River aka Welaunee forest, despite their being an active permit appeal and widespread community opposition in terms of hours of public comment and nation wide protests. The destruction of the forest by Atlanta Police Foundation is unacceptable and they should be commanded to stop their work immediately. I am also concerned that studies have not taken place to fully understand the full environmental impact of this project. For example , a tributary of the South River runs thru the proposed training facility. The EPA has strongly advised against building shooting ranges near water bodies due to lead contamination. The EPA has also suggested that cleaning up the river should be a priority instead of adding to further ecological devastation. Law enforcement has already killed a protester in the forest. A cop training facility further threatens the lives of Black and brown community members. Resources should be used to uplift the community and not cause further harm! Save the forest ! Stop Cop City!*

*11. Dr. Ed Williams (No Address)- Good Morning Commissioners: My name is Ed Williams. I am chair of the group Concerned Citizens for Effective Government. I am a taxpayer and resident of DeKalb County. Why did it take the MARTA CEO Collie Greenwood at a City of Atlanta January transportation committee meeting to finally admit that MARTA has a billion dollars shortfall and does not have enough funding to complete all the projects that it has announced? It seems to me that MARTA employs this strategy to solely bind the taxpayers to an expired service contract and make a case to increase the sales tax to 2 cents. MARTA is represented by Holland and Knight who also just so happens to provide bond financing, which is the same company that argues that local jurisdictions do not have to have another referendum to extend the sales tax to 2057. Holland and Knight failed to disclose their conflict of Interest. Holland and Knight makes a commission every time MARTA refinances its bonds. MARTA owes over 6 billion dollars in bond debt. The City of Atlanta reports a budget surplus while it passes debt over to MARTA from the street car. The MARTA Board said nothing Commission said nothing and the county attorney failed to do any due diligence or fulfill any fiduciary responsibility. The MARTA Act section 10(s) and the Ga Constitution prohibits the use of sales tax to pay for*

*revenue bond debt. It seems that the MARTA transit plan is in disarray and it changes like the wind. After only 5 months MARTA parted ways with the Deputy CEO who came from the City of Atlanta as Transportation Director Josh Rowan and now the board is being run by a state appointee. Now MARTA has decided against light rail to connect the Clifton corridor. The same old bait and switch. Now you see it, not you don't. There are several other issues regarding the MARTA Board composition. Why is it that the caucus of mayors in both DeKalb and Fulton counties' municipalities is involved in selecting board members who do not have contracts with MARTA? Why MARTA board members aren't selected using census data by commission districts? There is an equity issue with the current board member selection process. The Governor's MARTA Board appointee should not be a voting member and certainly not the chair of the MARTA board. The State of Georgia does not have a service contract with MARTA as outlined in section 6 of the MARTA Act. MARTA is an instrumentality of the counties and it is a conflict of interest for the governor's appointee to be the chair of a local authority. This would be as if the governors could appoint the chair of the Fulton County election board, the ethics board, the zoning board, or the tax appraisal board. The state has no contractual interest in MARTA as is required of the other board members. The board of commissioners should hold MARTA accountable. The citizens are being denied the right to vote on whether the MARTA service contract sales tax is extended. The current MARTA contract entered into in 1971 was supposed to end on August 31, 2021, however, MARTA has illegally extended the contract to 2057. The Georgia Constitution Article 7, Section 1, Paragraph does not allow the sales tax to be granted or extended through a contract agreement. To levy a sales tax in a local jurisdiction requires a referendum. The retail sales tax levy, like the LOST, and SPLOST has to be approved by a voter referendum and after the expiration has to a new referendum to extend or reimpose any obligations. Thank You*

*12. Nicole Morado, 1118 Dobbs Dr SE Atlanta GA 30316- To the DeKalb County Commissioners, My name is Nicole Morado. I own and live at 1118 Dobbs Dr SE, Atlanta, GA 30316, 1000 feet away from Key Rd and Fayetteville and 0.6 miles from the current staging location of the proposed training center. I support the appeal brought by my neighbor and backed by environmental experts highlighting the destructive, toxic consequences of approving this project. As a community surrounded by long term industrial pollution, illegal dumping and neglected properties, to ignore the future contamination this project brings will be a direct assault on DeKalb County residents and another instance of environmental racism, a true shame considering Atlanta's Civil Rights history. Old timers from Starlight Heights recall houses being torn down on Key because of methane gas leaks from the landfill and treated sewage dumped into*



*Intrenchment Creek. Their memories of the neighborhood are as being a dumping ground for the City of Atlanta for 60 years. With the landfill closed and efforts by groups like the South River Watershed Alliance, improvements are being made to bring dignity and ecological health to our area, which is now at risk by the impending illegal pollution from runoffs from developing this large facility. The EPA's currently working to curb "forever chemicals" in water, or PFAs. PFAS' presence can be sourced from firefighting foam, which would certainly be in use at this facility. Researchers for the National Academies said they found links between exposure to PFAS and four health conditions: decreased immune response, elevated cholesterol, decreased infant and fetal growth, and increased risk of kidney cancer. The report also found possible association between the chemicals and breast cancer, increased risk of testicular cancer, and thyroid disease. As society deals with devastating impacts of climate change, the very least we can do is uphold thresholds placed by environmental oversight guidelines. This not only ensures safety for current residents but more importantly prevents greater risks for future generations who increasingly suffer consequences of short sighted, and environmentally inconsiderate decisions by officials. I strongly encourage you to think about your children, and grandchildren and to take very seriously the concerns being raised by this courageous appeal and strong opposition to this development at this location. What will they think of you when there's no clean air to breath and suffer from asthma and lung diseases? What will they think of you when they can't enjoy recreation in nature because the water is so toxic it will make them sick? What will they think of you when there's no wildlife to appreciate because they've died out from destroyed habitats? What will they think of you when forced to leave their homes to avoid pollution, or when they can't leave because their homes are not valued enough to afford them access to cleaner communities? What will they think of you when they're suffering from cancer and organ failure? I urge you to be courageous with your leadership and maintain dignity for our community and environment. If the City of Atlanta thinks this is such a great idea why is the project not being put within their own city limits? Be on the right side of history, do not let pressure from powerful and greedy institutions determine the fate of our future. Our lives and the lives of children are depending on it. Sincerely,*

*13. Brad Beadles, 2207 Greystone Way Decatur, GA 30032- good morning. my name is Brad. I am a resident of unincorporated DeKalb county and I'm an engineer at a local firm in the construction industry. this morning I am here asking the board to revoke the land disturbance permit #1245564 from the Atlanta Police Foundation for their public safety training center located at the site of the old Atlanta prison farm in the south River Forest. as a resident I have experienced firsthand the undemocratic process that has allowed the APF to*

*move forward with this project without public consent. the site of the facility, once home to the Muscogee indigenous people before becoming a slave plantation and later a convict leasing forced labor farm, sits outside Atlanta city limits yet is leased by the city without the consent of nearby unincorporated DeKalb residents such as myself. the community stakeholder advisory committee, which is ostensibly intended to provide oversight and public accountability yet is run by a private entity propped up by corporate influence, has removed a fellow environmental engineer, Lily Ponitz, for raising valid unaddressed concerns about the projects negative ecological impacts. now, the Atlanta mayor and DeKalb CEO make back room deals to prematurely approve the permit under political pressure by Atlanta's business class despite major unaddressed social and ecological impacts on our community. a year and a half of continuous escalation on behalf of the APF, their corporate donors, and police have resulted in the killing of a protestor, our dear beloved Tortuguita, in a DeKalb county public park. this is beyond unacceptable. let me be clear. we do not want this police playground, this urban warfare paramilitary facility. revoke the lease to the APF. instead, let the community create space for telling an honest history of the land and for learning to heal based on the many things the forest has to teach us. thank you.*

*14. Scott Nesbit (No Address)- Good morning, My name is Scott Nesbit. I am a resident of DeKalb county where I own a home, pay, taxes, and vote. Shame on this commission for ignoring the will of the people, as has been expressed in a multitude of hours of public comment and national outcry over the injustice and devastating environmental impact of this project. The cop city development is a threat to our local citizens, and should it go through will not only have a detrimental impact on their lives and well-being, but will absolutely plague our elected officials at the ballot box. Every continued step towards corporate and police alliance over the will of the people will ensure that the leaders of DeKalb County today will no longer be the leaders of DeKalb County tomorrow, this development has already been deadly but how many more will die at the hands of officers trained in chemical warfare and domestic tactics? How many humans and non-humans alike will be poisoned by the effects of their training? What hubris from our leader ship, to presume that they can hand our land to another county with impunity! The degradation of democracy in DeKalb county is tied directly to the degradation of morality and honor amongst its leadership. Know this: the nation is watching you. Our county is watching you. it is not too late to kindle compassion in your hearts. It is not too late to care for the environment that is suffering all around us. It is not too late to reclaim your place in the circle of human kindness.*

15. *Ann Gauthier, 232 2nd Avenue Decatur GA 30030- I am unable to attend this meeting today but would like to express my opposition to both the clearing of any land in the Weelaunee (South River) Forest and the building of the Atlanta Police Foundation's training facility, aka Cop City, on this property. I have seen the plans for this facility and believe it will cause much greater harm to the local ecosystem and the people in the surrounding neighborhood than the project leaders are telling the community. I also understand that the consensus is that this project was rushed through with inadequate consideration to community opposition. I'd like to add my voice to those requesting that construction be stopped, as required by law, following the appeal of the land disturbance permit. I am also requesting that the Dekalb County CEO and Commissioners halt this project until the community has had ample time to review the final plans for the project and to decide whether it is something that we, the citizens of Dekalb county, support. Thank you for your time. Sincerely,*

16. *Tim Jouet, 433 Highland Ave. NE Atlanta GA 30312- I am dismayed by the actions of both the city of Atlanta and Dekalb county governments regarding the planned Atlanta Public Safety Training Center. It is an extreme example of elected leaders being beholden to corporate money and disregarding the needs of the people they supposedly serve. Others will speak in detail on specific issues surrounding this project, so I will just say that I want you to stop Cop City now.*

17. *Joseph West, 2607 Flagstone Drive SE- I noticed Dekalb county police, including a helicopter, multiple cruisers and various other vehicles on site every time I drive through key road on my way home last week, even late at night. Is it my tax dollars that are paying for this? Because that is ridiculous. I do not want this facility built and I didn't want my park destroyed. And I do not know anyone who lives here that wants it to be built either. More police and more guns and more killings aren't what we need here or anywhere.*

18. *Katherine Burke, 2031 Hilburn Drive SE Atlanta, GA 30316- Hello, my name is Katherine Burke and I am a voter and resident of DeKalb County. The current construction is ILLEGAL. due to an active permit appeal. Reckless, due to the lack of full study of environmental impacts, and undemocratic. Due to ignoring dozens of hours of public comment and nationwide protests in opposition to the project, the police have already murdered a protester in the forest. Forewarning the violence that our communities, especially Black and Brown community members, will experience if this training center is built. A tributary of the South River runs through the proposed training center, and the EPA advises strongly against building shooting ranges near bodies of water due to risk of lead contamination in an already contaminated water system. Heavy*

*metals from bullets, shells, and grenade canisters can contaminate soil and water. Contaminated soil and water leads to contaminated food sources. The South River is used for fishing. Pollutants from the training center may poison people who eat the fish. Pollutants stay in the water for decades. The Weelaunee (South River) Forest protects our clean air, combats climate change, and works as flood protection. We should not bulldoze while we are facing a climate crisis. Removing tree canopy in this area could cause surface temperatures to rise by up to 10°F. Politicians have pointed to the existence of a community advisory committee to suggest cop city construction is moving forward with community input. However: •The committee is packed with police department members and APF Funders, and an environmental engineer and vocal opponent of the project was removed after publicly voicing her dissent. O Amy Taylor, who filed the appeal with the zoning board to stop the project is also a member of the community advisory committee. Another member, Nicole Morado, resigned the day forest defender Tortugita was killed by police. O We can see that both former and current members of the advisory committee are now uniting against this project, and we already know that the majority of residents are against it. The training center will include burn building and a shooting range which pose a great danger to the environment and public health, and the project continues a long legacy of environmental racism in Georgia. The community surrounding the proposed training site is predominantly Black and working class. These individuals are already experiencing environmental racism caused by current shooting ranges and landfills dumped into the community. The EPA has said the river needs to be cleaned. Instead, by building cop city, APF is furthering the devastating impact of environmental racism. These individuals will continue to suffer the brunt of the environmental and public health impacts. Noise pollution from gunshots and explosions can cause psychological harm to nearby community members. A stop work order must be issued and Michael Thurmond must be held accountable for coercing employees to approve the land disturbance permit. For the sake of our community, please do your job and protect this community.*

*19. Kyle Megrath (Address)- My name is Kyle Megrath. I am a resident of Dekalb County and I live at 807 Monmouth Dr, Stone Mountain. I am a voter and actively involved in my community and in local healthcare. It is clear that the construction of the police training facility in our backyard has been an undemocratic process from the jump. The overwhelming community response has been that this does not line up with the kind of community we want to live in and we elected you to represent us. It is time to do so. The current destruction of land and our ecosystem is illegal due to an active permit appeal and, even worse, it is morally bankrupt. It ignores our opposition as well as the national opposition, it*

*destroys our precious land, and it perpetuates a broken police system that terrorizes and kills people of color and does nothing to deter or prevent crime. APF and its corporate support and the wealthy people behind this facility don't represent our county. You do. Block this destruction of land and interrupt a criminal punishment system that keeps our communities from thriving.*

*20. Sebastian Rand, 718 Brownwood Ave- Dear Commissioners, My name is Sebastian Rand, I live in DeKalb County (at 718 Brownwood Ave), I spend time in the affected forest (on the Path trail), and I vote. I'm writing to express my continued and strong opposition to the construction of the proposed training facility at its current location. I do not quarrel with the idea that the City of Atlanta police need a new training facility; that seems obvious, given the state of their current facility. But they shouldn't build what they have planned where they have planned to build it. Why not? Here's why not: - It is excessive: they don't need to train for urban warfare. They need to train in de-escalation and social work. - It is possibly illegal and definitely contrary to the will of the people: I'm not a permitting expert but it seems they're being very cavalier about that side of things. You and I wouldn't get away with such behavior. And their we're-doing-it-whether-you-like-it-or-not, shut-up-and-obey attitude is, unfortunately, all too typical of the attitude of the police to the community. - It is environmentally dangerous. Why should DeKalb residents be poisoned and have their natural surroundings degraded so that Atlanta can let its police play Special Forces? Stop this land grab and power overreach while we still can. Thanks for your time,*

*21. Lindsay Lewis-Still (No Address)- To whom it may concern, I am a resident of east atlanta and am writing to express my concern and disinterest with the clearing of one of Atlanta's largest natural habitats. Atlanta has plenty of abandoned concrete jungles to revitalize instead of destroying and developing on this land. It's truly disgusting and is purely a poor political move. Who is paying our mayor and Governor off to get this accomplished? The mayor states he will plant a hundred trees? Really big whoop! Doesn't compare to the destruction of wildlife and the trees that will be destroyed that are hundreds of years old. In addition to clearing and causing havoc to the wildlife, it will contribute to the problem of pollution and jeopardize one of our largest water resources. Who thinks this is a good idea? We live and breathe thanks to the forest and trees not by our illustrious police force. I understand needing to further the education exercises of our law enforcement but there can be a better creative solution for this. Atlanta is in a state of despair these days. This training facility will do little to nothing for our Atlanta law enforcement so why proceed? Maybe think about paying our cops a better salary and requiring a higher education upon hiring.*

*That in itself will remedy most issues we continue to have with our police. I am asking today to STOP any further destruction to our forest. Sincerely, A concerted resident of Dekalb county,*

22. *Clara Nibbelink (No Address)- Good morning, I write today extremely concerned about the continued intent to destroy the Welaunee Forest. A sustained campaign of public opposition has become a national movement, and if decision-makers are not listening to the cogency of the argument that racial politics, land development, and forest clear-cutting are interrelated issues that will impact ALL Atlanta residents far into the future, then they have squarely chosen short-term political profit over the good of the entire community. The murder of Tortugita by the Atlanta police is a mere preview of the impunity and antagonism that this development will further entrench between the city and its citizens. I'm a former (& future) Dekalb County resident, moonlighting in Athens to obtain my master's student at the University of Georgia studying tree physiology and the impacts of climate change on our cities. Atlanta wants to claim itself as a sustainable forest city on one hand, while on the other, offloading environmental impacts onto residents whom the city deems less valuable. Let me assure decision-makers that the offloading of these impacts will only stay sequestered away from the rich, tree-lined streets of your preferred Atlanta for so long. Not only does hammering this development forward set a precedent for reckless development against sustained community opposition, clear-cutting of the Welaunee forest is the opposite direction of development that Atlanta should be moving to climate-proof the city against unpredictable weather events that are already here and projected to worsen. Clear-cutting will have untold, connected, and cascading long-term impacts on city temperatures, stormwater retention, pollution of the watershed, soil erosion, pollinator habitat, and community quality of life. Forests are some of the most multifunctional, bang-for-your-buck mitigators of environmental harm and human health impacts, and removing one to replace with a monument to the further militarization of police against our citizens.....well, it sends a clear signal as to who (\$\$\$) and what (\$\$\$) the decision-makers in Atlanta really value. I hope you'll hear the citizens today,*

23. *Charles Froelich, 729 Willivee Drive Decatur GA 30033- Greetings Dekalb County Commissioners, I am writing in support of the Petitioners who have filed the "Verified Complaint for Injunctive Relief to Stop Unauthorized Clearing" (dated 2/13/23). The Atlanta Police Foundation is not acting in good faith in respecting the surrounding community as well as the ecology of the site. The APF needs to change their approach to listen and come to an amicable agreement with the local stakeholders on the proposed training facility instead acting*

*unilaterally. I am a regular user of the South River trail and know the area. What mystifies me is the insistence on using the forest land when there is a vast expanse of open space North of Key road – the capped sanitary landfill. Why not use that space instead? Thank you,*

*24. Eve Krueger (No Address)- I am writing today as a voter and a citizen of Dekalb County to voice my strong opposition to the construction of the APF Training Center in the Atlanta forest. Training centers like the one proposed by the APF do not prevent crime. Community investment prevents crime, economic equalization prevents crime — not more policing. More policing lead to the death of a protestor at the hands of police in the forest last month. I do not want - in my community or my country - police to have the right to murder protestors without consequence. Additionally, the environmental impact on this lush forest of a facility of this size has not been studied nearly enough to justify this construction. The construction permit has already been appealed - any construction activity currently taking place on this project is illegal. I strongly urge the Zoning Committee to fully revoke the permit and disallow the construction of this project. Thank you for your time.*

*25. Asa Kramer-Dickie (No Address)- Greeting Dekalb County Board of Commissioners, I'm writing as a resident and registered voter living in Dekalb County (near East Atlanta). I am increasingly concerned by the construction of the Police Training Facility in South Dekalb at the site of Intrenchment Creek Park and the Old Atlanta Prison Farm. I grew up walking, playing, and biking on this land. To see it turned into a training facility for police officers - who have actively antagonized protesters and even killed one - against the will of residents who left countless hours of public comment for the Atlanta City Council is disappointing to say the least. As elected officials, I hope you listen to the will of the people and take these public comments into account rather than bowing to the mayor. Know that I, and many other active voters in this county, are watching closely how you vote on these issues with profound environmental, social, and racial implications. Thank you,*

*26. Erin A. Willoughby (No Address)- Good Morning: My name is Erin Willoughby and I am a voting resident of DeKalb County, Georgia. I write to urge the county to issue a stop work order on the Atlanta Police Foundation's illegal construction in the Weelaunee Forest. This facility will not make our community safer. Instead, it will only train police, who have already murdered one protestor, to more effectively kill our Black and brown neighbors. In addition, this construction is illegal, reckless, and undemocratic. It is opposed by community leaders and is gaining nationwide attention - not for the reasons*

*DeKalb should gain attention - but for the fact that it will train cops not to protect our communities, but to be more effective killers. Policing, and more policing, cannot and will not prevent crime. Instead, police respond only after a crime has occurred, often escalating an already tense situation until there is violence and even bloodshed. Investing in our communities, not policing, is what prevents crime. If DeKalb wants to prevent crime, we should invest in parks, after school programs, poverty alleviating measures, healthcare, and mental health care. When people are financially secure, crime decreases. Investing instead in a facility designed to train police officers in urban warfare further cements the "us v them" mentality already so prevalent and drives desperate people further into the shadows, escalating discriminatory violence and resulting in lost lives. In addition, the environmental effects of this construction must not be overlooked. reducing Atlanta's forest canopy could result in warming the already scorching city by up to TEN degrees Fahrenheit. A South River tributary runs through this area and is used, among other things, for fishing. The EPA strongly recommends AGAINST building shooting ranges near bodies of water like this tributary due to risks of heavy metal contamination from bullets, shell casings, and grenades. These pollutants remain in the soil and water for decades, poisoning our animals and plants and, ultimately, our people. Finally, the construction of this facility in the forest is a nuisance to residents of the area. Police helicopters are already disturbing residents on a nightly basis, and this will only increase with the added sounds of regular gunfire. An idyllic forest retreat is being turned into a war zone on your watch and you, DeKalb County Commissioners, should be ashamed to let that happen. In short, this construction is an illegal, reckless, undemocratic boondoggle designed only to benefit the pocketbooks of those involved. It does nothing for our local community, negatively impacts the environment, and garners national attention for all the wrong reasons. I urge you to be part of the solution rather than exacerbate the problem, and to issue an immediate stop work order. Sincerely,*



27. *Roberta Cook, 5911 Graywood Circle SE, Mableton GA 30126- I support the appeal of the permit for the proposed Atlanta Police Foundation facility. Please stop killing the life-giving forest that provides the valuable oxygen we breathe, shelters wildlife habitat, and cleans our dirty water runoff. The police facility should be relocated to a community that can be rejuvenated by the new building through the transformation of an abandoned shopping center, empty big box store, or other blighted property already scarred by development. Please reconsider the police facility location and come up with a mutual winning solution that honors the forest preservation and solves development blight for a needy community. PS There is a discrepancy in the email address used for public comment, so I used both because I don't know which is correct: <https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/board-commissioners/public-participation> shows this address PublicComment@dekalbcountyga.gov vs. today's meeting agenda Section C: Comments from the Public shows this address PublicComments@dekalbcountyga.gov Please correct the email address discrepancy for future users. Thank you,*

28. *Lila Givens, 807 Monmouth Drive Stone Mountain GA 30083- Good morning commissioners, My name is Lila Givens. I live and own my home in DeKalb Co at 807 Monmouth Drive, Stone Mountain GA 30083. I am an active voter in every election. Here are some points I would like you to consider as I plea that you do what you can to stop the building of a police training center in DeKalb. •Investing more resources into policing is not going to make our communities any safer • o At best police can intervene after a crime has occurred - they can't prevent crime from happening. O Even worse, we have seen countless examples of Atlanta police officers brutalizing, targeting, and murdering our Black neighbors. O Investing in communities keeps us safe • The current construction is illegal, due to an active permit appeal, reckless, due to the lack of full study of environmental impacts, and undemocratic, due to ignoring dozens of hours of public comment and nationwide protests in opposition to the project •Politicians have pointed to the existence of a community advisory committee to suggest cop city construction is moving forward with community input. However: • o The committee is packed with police department members and APF Funders, and an environmental engineer and vocal opponent of the project was removed after publicly voicing her dissent. O Amy Taylor, who filed the appeal with the zoning board to stop the project is*

*also a member of the community advisory committee. O Another member, Nicole Morado, resigned the day forest defender Tortugita was killed by police. o We can see that both former and current members of the advisory committee are now uniting against this project, and we already know that the majority of residents are against it. • The training center will include burn building and a shooting range which pose a great danger to the environment and public health, and represent continuing environmental racism in Georgia. Thank you for your time and consideration,*

*29. Sara Quinn (No Address)- Hi, my name is Sara Quinn. I grew up in Dekalb county and my parents still live there. I am now a teacher and though I live and work in Fulton, I am deeply invested in Dekalb county. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the construction of the police training center and to the extremely undemocratic way that this process has been conducted. The citizens of Atlanta are by and large opposed to this project which is currently proceeding illegally. As a teacher, I am always thinking of the world we are creating for the next generation. Will we choose to protect our forest and the vital south river watershed, or will Dekalb push through these improper permits and pollute and destroy them? Will we figure out how to prevent crime in our city or further militarize our police? Will we allow corporate interests to dictate what happens in our city or will elected officials actually listen to the people? It is extremely telling that the members of the community advisory board who are actually from the community are opposed to this project. It's another sign that true oversight and community accountability are completely absent from this project. How is it possible that there is no other solution than pushing through this harmful training center and causing so much harm? How many more people will die because elected officials of Atlanta and Dekalb refuse to be held accountable to the people? The south river watershed is already being polluted via sediment, in violation of state law. This has already worsened due to the construction of this facility. Please put a stop to this illegal activity. Thank you.*

*30. Joe Peery, 1674 Flat Shoals Road SE Dekalb, 30316- CEO Thurmond and County Commissioners: Halt the construction of the APF Training Facility For decades the City of Atlanta police have failed to protect our beautiful forest at the site of the Old Atlanta Prison Farm. They have allowed dumping of trash and thousands of tires under their watch, and littered the grounds with their toxic munitions. Despite overwhelming public approval of a City Council approved plan to create a beautiful South River Forest greenspace, APF have bullied their way onto the land and are now in process of illegally taking over 171 acres from our forest. Worse, they have claimed an area that hosts two lakes and an active stream that feeds into Intrenchment Creek. Construction on this site will cause*

*sediment to run into our already tragically polluted creek. APF has shown nothing but contempt for the citizens of DeKalb County, and they don't even bother to deal with our County Commissioners. It's time to respect the will of DeKalb Citizens who are tired of having our land and water destroyed. Halt the construction of the APF Training Facility until environmental concerns have been properly vetted. Consider what would make DeKalb a place where people would want to live- a vibrant South River Forest that protects our environment and connects our community. Sincerely,*

*31. Nirvana (No Address)- hi My name is Nirvana and I'm a resident and tax payer in DeKalb County who is deeply opposed to this project. To start bluntly, I'm sickened to think that our current city officials have proposed moving forward with the construction of this so-called training facility, better known to us in Atlanta and around the nation as Cop City. For years, I have relished in exploring, biking, and walking the beautifully rich lands surrounding the South River and Intrenchment Creek Park, both on my own and with dear friends. Upon learning the history of these lands, where it was used as a prison farm and contains the unmarked graves of those who died at the hands of the state, it feels like an utter slap in the face to even suggest building yet another playground for law enforcement to practice urban warfare tactics that will surely be used AGAINST our own community. Not only that, these lands are sacred to the Muscogee/Creek peoples and are not the government's to sign away. The surrounding neighborhoods who will be affected by this project, which are predominantly Black and low income, will absolutely suffer preventable ecological disasters if the forest is allowed to be destroyed. To put it plainly, the construction of this facility is environmentally racist and negligent. With the death of one forest defender and protestor, this should have immediately put an end to this charade. If construction is allowed to continue, those in support of and backing the project WILL HAVE MORE BLOOD ON THEIR HANDS. This is a matter of life and death — money and greed have no place here. The people have spoken in opposition, and we will continue to speak up because COP CITY WILL NEVER BE BUILT.*

*32. Donovan Henneberg-Verity, 1118 Dobbs Dr SE Atlanta GA 30316- Hello, Donovan Henneberg-Verity here, long time resident of the Starlight Heights neighborhood, next to the proposed training facility. My house is located 1056 feet from the border of the proposed site. Atlanta has a long history of treating this area of DeKalb as a place to hide all of it's undesirable things--landfills, prisons, etc.--and the residents of the surrounding area are left to deal with the consequences. We are not residents of Atlanta, we have no direct say when these projects have produced harmful consequences as Atlanta politicians don't answer*

*to us. I'm asking the Commisioners of DeKalb County to encourage your ZBA appointees to terminate the Atlanta Police Foundation's LDP. There are too many inconsistencies between the project's internal environmental assessments and the observations of outside environmental experts. They have already lied about the scope of areas affected on multiple occasions. Thank you,*

*33. Eve Krueger, 216 Jefferson Pl Decatur GA 30030- My name is Eve Krueger and I live at 216 Jefferson Pl, Decatur, GA 30030. I am writing today as a voter and a citizen of Dekalb County to voice my strong opposition to the construction of the APF Training Center in the Atlanta forest. Training centers like the one proposed by the APF do not prevent crime. Community investment prevents crime, economic equalization prevents crime — not more policing. More policing lead to the death of a protestor at the hands of police in the forest last month. I do not want - in my community or my country - police to have the right to murder protestors without consequence. Additionally, the environmental impact on this lush forest of a facility of this size has not been studied nearly enough to justify this construction. The construction permit has already been appealed - any construction activity currently taking place on this project is illegal. I strongly urge the Zoning Committee to fully revoke the permit and disallow the construction of this project. Thank you for your time.*

*34. (No Information)- To whom it may concern, The construction of an Atlanta police training facility in the forest must not move forward. Construction will create more sediment discharge than is allowable under state and federal law, and falsely states the amount of green space that the project would include. Continuing to move forward with this project while an appeal is under consideration violates the law. The appeal is attached.*

*35. Loren Crawford, 1445 Meridian St SE Atlanta, Ga 30317 - My name is Loren Crawford and I have been a resident of DeKalb County for the past seven years. I apologize for not being present with you in person today, but my work responsibilities made it difficult to be present, and so thank you for listening to my written concerns regarding zoning of the APF training facility, more commonly known as Cop City. First, I am deeply concerned that construction continues on Cop City, despite this appeal. What can we do as citizens when the folks we have elected and trusted to represent us do not protect our interests? This project is widely unpopular and us citizens DO NOT WANT IT. Why does the project construction continue? Secondly, I am concerned of what the increased policing will lead to. More policing of our neighborhoods is not the solution to making our city and county better. We need to spend our money (taxes that me and my fellow DeKalb residents pay) on affordable housing, investment*

*in community outreach, supporting our children and youth, as well as our infrastructure. You may think that spending money on Cop City would not preclude you from supporting these programs, however, it does. Spending money on Cop City undermines true community safety and leads to divestment in the community. In this way, I see this undertaking as a way of taking citizens money through taxes to divest in our communities, instead of keeping the money close to home and investing it in programs that have a true impact on the lives of citizens. Additionally, this investment in policing says more about our city than perhaps anything else. It says: we value policing our citizens over providing healthy communities that uplift our citizens. I'll repeat that: It says: we value policing our citizens over providing healthy communities that uplift our citizens. Policing in America is rather a violent business (police have already murdered a protester in the Weelaunee Forest), and we don't need more of it. I do not want my tax dollars to go to it. Period. I want you to help reshape this city and lift up the black communities that are disproportionately affected by policing and environmental hazards. Finally, this is not what is right for our county and city. It is not what is right for the people in our communities. It is time we rise above what has been done, and create a future for other cities to envy and emulate. Thank you for your time, Your concerned citizen,*

*36. Emily Backus, 4558 Park Dr, Pine Lake, GA 30072- Hello, my name is Emily Backus and I live at 4558 Park Dr, Pine Lake, GA 30072. I am writing today to ask the commission to issue a stop work order against the destruction of the South River Forest. Public opinion is overwhelmingly against this project, and DeKalb citizens' voices have been ignored every step of the way. Despite the legal obligation to pause work while an appeal has been filed, APF is recklessly pushing forward with the project. It is no coincidence that Norfolk Southern, the company which is responsible for the recent environmental disaster in Ohio, is also funding this project, which will destroy the quality of life for those living near the forest. Please honor your commitment to the citizens of DeKalb and stop this intrusive construction until the appeal can be heard.*

*37. Shelley Tokish (No Address)- To whom it may concern, As an active voter and resident of Dekalb county since 1994, I've seen a lot of changes in the community. Some have been for the better and some have not. As a parent, I know that I have to show my child that we should use our voices to stand up for what's right. So I'm using my voice, now, to raise awareness and concerns regarding the construction of the new police training facility, now known as "Cop City". While I do agree that the police need a new training facility, I don't believe that they need the facility that has been proposed. Due to the highly publicized and and inappropriate actions of member of the APD, including the*

*murder of multiple people, it would stand to reason that proper training is not only required, but necessary. However, this facility is not geared towards that type of training. The police force needs to re-engage and build trust with the community. Building a relationship with the community involves transparency and this project has been marred with secrecy and violence. These are not the ideals that I want my daughter to learn about the government and police. Additionally, this land is in a marginalized community and is, essentially, stolen from the Weelaunee people. While the more affluent side of the South River has been protected and developed into nature preserve, this part has not been given the same focus and investment, presumably because of the minority population that resides here. I believe it is time to invest in this community, not pollute it with gunfire, noise, and fear. I know there must be a compromise that benefits both the community and the police/government. I believe we as Atlantans, should and can find a solution that is appropriate. We need to show our commitment to our community and our children. Thank you,*

38. *Ryan Shindler (No Address)- Dear Dekalb county, I know many of you have children in your life, whether you raise them or not. Let me ask you: - what does the percent interest on your child's 529 if they can't breathe the air or drink clean water? - what does your focus on "what about the children" and demand for more police matter if they target your own child for being trans, or autistic, or gay? - what does finding the right real estate agent for a condo in buckhead matter, if there's a massive train crash in atlanta, spilling tons of chemicals into the air? - What does the push for working all the time and getting perfect grades matter, if by the time those kids are grown up, There's no environmental or economic way to Live? The Dekalb police, and this government, has chosen the protection of property and middle class feelings, over human lives. Thus, our golf courses cover the bones of murdered indigenous people, and the air in much of the world becomes covered in orange chemicals with each wreckless train crash-sponsored by Norfolk southern, which sponsors "cop city". And you can't breathe money.*

39. *Allison Turner (No Address)- Good morning, My name is Allison Turner and I have lived in and voted in DeKalb County, GA my entire life. I wish I could attend in person, but I am at work, thank you for reading my comment aloud. I am strongly opposed to the APF Funded training facility in SW Atlanta for a multitude of reasons, but today I would like to focus on the project's legal missteps and environmental implications. The first being that politicians supporting the project have alleged that they asked community members for their input. This is a false statement, in face they formed their own "committee" stacked with people who have ties to the project and/or are members/supporters*

of the Atlanta Police Foundation. An engineer who was on the committee who spoke out on the horrible environmental impacts of the project was REMOVED after stating their public dissent. This is beyond corrupt. Next, the current construction happening on site is illegal due to the active zoning appeal. It is also reckless and a non-biased environmental impact study has NOT been conducted. And finally, in democratic as DeKalb citizens like myself do not support this project. Furthermore, a life has been lost in this project at the hands of police. Recent body cam footage features a police officer saying "You f\*\*\*\*\*d your own officer up." A tributary of the South River runs through the proposed site, the EPA strongly advises against heavy metals (i.e., lead from bullets) entering water sources as lead is extremely harmful to water sources, which are a growing scarce resource in today's world. This will also poison our soil, which is how we produce our food. Furthermore, this particular area is one of the "four lungs" of the city of Atlanta. We must act to preserve this land to protect ourselves from worsening climate change. I urge you to listen to your citizens and do the right thing. Thank you for your time.

40. Anne DeMartini, 2 Interlock Ave NW Apt 320 Atlanta, 30318- I write to ask the Zoning Board of Appeals to support Amy Taylor's appeal, rescind the land disturbance permit for the police training facility, and force APF to immediately cease work on the land. The APF cannot demonstrate "compliance with all applicable local, state and federal requirements" and because the proposed construction would violate local and state law. APF should not be allowed to operate above the law. They are not exempt from following the rules. Additionally, construction in this area should not occur due to • Uninvestigated reports of unmarked graves • No ESA Phase II Environmental Report • Failure to address storm water concerns • Historic & religious significance of the land • Severe ecological impact to southwest Dekalb, the South River, and nearby neighborhoods I object to the construction of this militarized police training facility ANYWHERE. More police, regardless of their amount of training, does not keep us safe. Investing the public monies in other ways would be more effective and efficient to serve the citizens of Dekalb Co and the metro area.

41. Margarita Caraballo, 2486 Melinda Dr NE Atlanta, GA 30345- Hello there, I have been a resident of Atlanta for almost 15 years and have lived in Dekalb for the majority of that time. I'm an extremely active voter both in federal and state elections and I'm writing in specifically with respect to the police and fire department facilities proposed to be built in the Weelaunee Forest. I can't believe how thoroughly the constituents of this county are being ignored. The majority of residents are strongly opposed to not just the waste of public funds for a facility run by a private foundation that will be under limited obligation to disclose the

*use of not just those funds but future revenue, but also the basic premise of what the acres of green space will be converted into and what it's in service of. The proposed facility's use does nothing to enhance public safety. It doesn't take hundreds of acres of forest being clear cut to address the need for courses on de-escalation for our police. Enhancing the increasing militarization of our police and those across the country and the world through the GILEE program are proven to be ineffective in accomplishing de-escalation of police confirmations. Last year we achieved an annual all time high for officer involved killings. As a mother in this community, I can't say it gives me any comfort to know we'd be clear cutting acres of old growth forest, serving to help keep our air cleaner in spite of our horrible traffic, that's holding increased flooding at bay, just to let officers learn to more efficiently and aggressively corral citizens. Which brings me of course to the ecological impact. You are ignoring the feedback from the immediate community around Weelaunee telling you the flooding is already worsening and clear cutting acres of forest will make it worse even faster. Your plan to plant trees elsewhere is cute, but unenforceable and you can't magically recreate the root systems that help to reduce flooding. It's irresponsible, especially for a facility people in this city and frankly across the country don't want. \$30 million on a facility to enhance the militarization of police? Why not spend that money on food programs, educational programs, and other social programs that actually do have evidence to support that they reduce crime and lead to happier communities. We don't want gun fire near our communities, terrifying residents, leeching metal into the ground, and contaminating our watershed. APF can take the money they raised, not our \$30 million of tax payer money and go repair existing facilities and leave the forest and dekalb residents alone. This whole farce is not just illegal, but also incredibly reckless and you're gambling with our lives and homes. With the little respect due, because you've been told overwhelmingly by the community you're ignoring, I'm asking the county to issue a stop work order immediately.*

*42. Gillian Blitzer, 3320 Fayetteville Road SE Atlanta GA 30316- To the Dekalb Zoning Board, As a community member that uses the forest often, and a voter, I am writing to urgently request a stop work order be immediately issued against the Atlanta Police Foundation and the construction companies currently ILLEGALLY destroying the South River/Weelaunee Forest. Despite being quote un-quote "law enforcement" the APF continues to illegally bulldoze and destroy the forest despite an active appeal. The people have spoken again, and again, we do not want this massive military facility in place of a beautiful forest. This forest is where we live and where we walk, it protects our communities from flooding and provides much needed climate stabilization. APF doesn't care about the people, only the corporate donors. APF doesn't deserve a new facility if they*



*can't take care of the ones they already have, it's absurd! Dekalb county needs to step up and PROTECT ITS CITIZENS. Your citizens do not want this, your citizens VOTE, don't forget that, stop the work! Thank you,*

*43. Manisha Lance (No Address)- Hi, My Name is Manisha Lance. I work in Dekalb County and enjoy it's beautiful parks and natural spaces. I am also a Georgia voter. I am making this comment to voice my concern about Atlanta Police Foundation's destruction of the South River aka Welaunee forest, despite their being an active permit appeal and widespread community opposition in terms of hours of public comment and nation wide protests. The destruction of the forest by Atlanta Police Foundation is unacceptable and they should be commanded to stop their work immediately. I am also concerned that studies have not taken place to fully understand the full environmental impact of this project. For example , a tributary of the South River runs thru the proposed training facility. The EPA has strongly advised against building shooting ranges near water bodies due to lead contamination. The EPA has also suggested that cleaning up the river should be a priority instead of adding to further ecological devastation. Law enforcement has already killed a protester in the forest. A cop training facility further threatens the lives of Black and brown community members. Resources should be used to uplift the community and not cause further harm! Save the forest ! Stop Cop City!*

44. *Sara Quinn, 2149 Main St NW Atlanta GA 30318- Hi, my name is Sara Quinn, 2149 Main st NW, Atlanta GA, 30318. I grew up in Dekalb county and my parents still live there. I am now a teacher and though I live and work in Fulton, I am deeply invested in Dekalb county. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the construction of the police training center and to the extremely undemocratic way that this process has been conducted. The citizens of Atlanta are by and large opposed to this project which is currently proceeding illegally. As a teacher, I am always thinking of the world we are creating for the next generation. Will we choose to protect our forest and the vital south river watershed, or will Dekalb push through these improper permits and pollute and destroy them? Will we figure out how to prevent crime in our city or further militarize our police? Will we allow corporate interests to dictate what happens in our city or will elected officials actually listen to the people? It is extremely telling that the members of the community advisory board who are actually from the community are opposed to this project. It's another sign that true oversight and community accountability are completely absent from this project. How is it possible that there is no other solution than pushing through this harmful training center and causing so much harm? How many more people will die because elected officials of Atlanta and Dekalb refuse to be held accountable to the people? The south river watershed is already being polluted via sediment, in violation of state law. This has already worsened due to the construction of this facility. Please put a stop to this illegal activity. Thank you.*

45. *Julia Rademacher-Wedd, 141 E. College Ave. #1247 Decatur, GA 30030- Dear DeKalb County Commissioners, My name is Julia Rademacher-Wedd and I am a DeKalb County voter. I am emailing to express opposition to development of any kind in the South River/Welaunee Forest, and specifically to urge you to enforce the law and halt construction while resident Amy Taylor's appeal is being processed. There has not been nearly enough community consultation to justify the destruction of a public park and to further contribute to erosion and pollution in the South River. These acts can not be taken back, and should only be undertaken with community approval. Furthermore, to allow land in our county to be used for a project that will direct millions of dollars from Atlanta taxpayers not to education, healthcare, or housing, but into a project that will make police more effective at using militant tactics against civilians is shameful and unethical. Thank you for taking my position into account.*

46. *Judyth Johnson (No Address)- Good Morning, My name is Judyth Johnson. I am a native Georgian and a resident of Dekalb County since 1980. I want to*

*voice my opposition to the building of the police training facility in the Weelaunee Forest. Old growth forests are treasures that should be protected, not destroyed. The pollution from the training equipment will contaminate soil and water. The EPA advises against shooting ranges being built near bodies of water due to lead contamination. These pollutants stay in the environment for decades. They poison wildlife and humans. The money to build this facility would be better spent on screening police academy applicants and increasing salaries. More support for the social services police are expected to perform that are not part of their job. This facility is a very, very, very bad idea. Thank you for considering my concerns.*

*47. David Leedle, 772 Brownwood Ave Atlanta, GA 30316- Dear DeKalb Commissioners, I am writing about the proposed police and fire training facility (referred to as "Cop City") that would be built in the South River/Weelaunee forest. As a DeKalb county resident who lives close by, I am opposed to this facility for a number of reasons. First, the current forest destruction is illegal as there is an active permit appeal. There is widespread community opposition that has been outright ignored. Until that issue is resolved, the work must stop. Second, any money invested in policing should be directed towards community support, de-escalation training, and non-violent intervention methods. We do not need more militarization of the police force. Black and brown folks already bear the brunt of police violence and they will also be forced to withstand the environmental impact of this facility in the heart of their community. Finally, if a new training facility is so desperately needed, there are many other suitable locations than the middle of a thriving greenspace that is vital to our city and county. Instead of destroying an ecological treasure, you could take over an abandoned mall or some other site that is farther away from residents who don't want to live next to a practice war zone. I implore you to listen to your constituents and enforce the permit appeal and stop the forest clearing. Then I would ask you to re-evaluate the decision of where the facility would be placed and even the reason for its existence. Yes, cops need more training, but it shouldn't be at the expense of our community and the environment.*

*48. Zach Janick, 744 Dalrose Ave. Decatur Ga 30030- Hello, I am a Resident of Dekalb county. I also work here and spend most of my recreational time here. Today I wish to address the massive disparity between the goals and interests of this proposed project and the goals and interests of the residents whose communities will be most affected by it. There has, for the last two years, been a lasting and ardent opposition to the construction of this training facility, spearheaded by the residents of south atlanta and Dekalb county, and over the course of those two years that movement has only grown stronger and more*

widespread. In response, a community advisory committee was set up to address the concerns of the public, but that committee has only served to manufacture consent where none exists. The committee is packed with police department members and APF Funders, an environmental engineer and opponent of the project was removed after publicly voicing opposition, Amy Taylor, who filed the appeal with the zoning board to stop the project is also a member, and Nicole Morado resigned the day forrest defender Tortuguita was killed. Many current and former members of this committee are uniting in opposition to it, a position which aligns with the position of the vast majority of Dekalb county residents. Furthermore the current construction work is illegal due to an active permit appeal. It is my hope that you will hear and address these and the many other concerns being voiced about this project, including a litany of environmental and safety concerns that this project arises, many of which I am sure will also be discussed here today. Thank you for your time.

49. Erin Willoughby, is 1889 Glenmar Drive Decatur GA 30032- My name is Erin Willoughby and I am a voting resident of DeKalb County, Georgia. My address is 1889 Glenmar Drive, Decatur, GA 30032. I write to urge the county to issue a stop work order on the Atlanta Police Foundation's illegal construction in the Weelaunee Forest. This facility will not make our community safer. Instead, it will only train police, who have already murdered one protestor, to more effectively kill our Black and brown neighbors. In addition, this construction is illegal, reckless, and undemocratic. It is opposed by community leaders and is gaining nationwide attention - not for the reasons DeKalb should gain attention - but for the fact that it will train cops not to protect our communities, but to be more effective killers. Policing, and more policing, cannot and will not prevent crime. Instead, police respond only after a crime has occurred, often escalating an already tense situation until there is violence and even bloodshed. Investing in our communities, not policing, is what prevents crime. If DeKalb wants to prevent crime, we should invest in parks, after school programs, poverty alleviating measures, healthcare, and mental health care. When people are financially secure, crime decreases. Investing instead in a facility designed to train police officers in urban warfare further cements the "us v them" mentality already so prevalent and drives desperate people further into the shadows, escalating discriminatory violence and resulting in lost lives. In addition, the environmental effects of this construction must not be overlooked. reducing Atlanta's forest canopy could result in warming the already scorching city by up to TEN degrees Fahrenheit. A South River tributary runs through this area and is used, among other things, for fishing. The EPA strongly recommends AGAINST building shooting ranges near bodies of water like this tributary due to risks of heavy metal contamination from bullets, shell casings, and grenades.

*These pollutants remain in the soil and water for decades, poisoning our animals and plants and, ultimately, our people. Finally, the construction of this facility in the forest is a nuisance to residents of the area. Police helicopters are already disturbing residents on a nightly basis, and this will only increase with the added sounds of regular gunfire. An idyllic forest retreat is being turned into a war zone on your watch and you, DeKalb County Commissioners, should be ashamed to let that happen. Sincerely,*

*50. Ralph MacDonald, 3212 Bluebird Lane Decatur GA 30032- My name is Ralph MacDonald and I am a farmer and landscaper in Belvedere Park. I am asking this board to insist that the Atlanta Police Foundation cease their work on a new training center off of Key Road due to lack of community support and the risk to community assets such as tree canopy, healthy soil, and erosion and flood control. I echo the concerns of the appointed Community Stakeholder Advisory Committee members for APF's training facility that have called out the project as being managed in an environmentally irresponsible manner. I agree with the concerns that the environmental remediation plans presented by APF are based on poor ecological analysis. I echo the concerns the board has raised about police violence in the forest and the implications of providing resources to a well-armed, violent, and unaccountable police force. While the Stakeholder Advisory Board was always a poor substitute for the community outreach and approvals that should accompany a project of this magnitude, its resignations, removals, and lawsuits paint a clear picture of a project that has failed to gain community support by even the insufficient and arbitrary methods that it has tried to manufacture consent. Without a functioning stakeholder advisory committee, even the fig leaf version of community consent has blown away, and it is now incumbent on our elected officials to act in a manner that is consistent with their constituents wishes. Time should be made for real community engagement: for members of the neighborhood, Dekalb county, and the city of Atlanta to voice their concerns, objections, or even support for the project. There needs to be a formal process on the project that allows people real democratic input, one in which our soil, our canopy, our people, and our river are not arbitrarily endangered on the whim of deep-pocketed corporate interests. These are our communal assets, and we will not stand for the county allowing them to be destroyed without our consent. Work must be stopped and the heavy machinery must be removed from the site immediately.*

*51. Nina Dutton, 436 N. Highland Ave. NE Atlanta GA 30307- Most immediately, I am commenting to call for DeKalb County to issue a stop work order for the Atlanta Police Foundation facility while the county reviews the appeal filed by Amy Taylor of the land disturbance permit for the project.*

*Furthermore, I am commenting to urge DeKalb commissioners, CEO Thurmond, and any other county officials (such as in the Zoning Board of Appeals) who can make decisions on this matter: Stop the Atlanta Police Foundation facility project entirely. This may be by reviewing and cancelling the land disturbance permit, and refusing to grant another one, or some other way I am not aware of. You are surely aware of the arguments made directly in the appeal, such as the fact that Intrinchment Creek already does not meet state water quality standards, and more sediment pollution into the creek (and therefore the rivers it flows into) can be expected as a result of construction. Beyond that, the loss of this forest, the resulting losses of air-filtering and urban heat island (and thus air conditioning bill) reduction and carbon sequestration and flood mitigation and wildlife habitat and spaces for people to enjoy, and the pollution (heavy metal and noise from the outdoor shooting range, exhaust from police vehicles), and the imposition of a massive militarized police presence, in south DeKalb and adjacent to south Atlanta specifically, are injustices. Please don't subject the neighboring communities, and the people who have ties to this land, to the whims of the APF, its corporate donors, and Atlanta city government. I want to remind you that you have an out! This appeal is an out. This movement is an out. It's not too late to listen to south DeKalb and take this out, stopping the project. My address is in Fulton County, in Atlanta, but I often run errands, visit friends, and enjoy the parks, forests, and rivers in DeKalb. Some of the most beautiful and meaningful experiences in my life have been in parks in south DeKalb, including in Weelaunee (South River) Forest, including in the part of Intrinchment Creek Park under the land swap with Ryan Millsap. With the lawsuit against the swap, you have an out on that too; please reverse that swap while you're at it.*

*52. Margaret Holland (No Address)- Community members are tired of being ignored while leaders ignore laws and standard procedure to push through a project that can not possibly survive actual scrutiny. This is not what the community wants or needs, is a terrible investment, and is downright insulting coming from leaders as a 'solution' to any problem with the lives of residents of Dekalb County. Shame on APF, shame on Dekalb county for allowing work to continue illegally, and shame on profit mongering corporations whose goal is to enrich themselves while keeping communities desperate for resources.*

*53. Stephen Miko, 711 Brownwood Ave SE Atlant, GA 30316- Dear DeKalb County Commissioners, My name is Stephen Miko and I live at 711 Brownwood Ave SE, Atlanta, GA 30316. I am a registered voter and take this matter very seriously. The community (that funds the police with OUR tax dollars) doesn't need this police training center in our community. My argument is that we need*

*to focus and spend our money on higher priorities in the community like education and public transportation. I personally see this as a complete waste of OUR money. Not only is this whole idea disruptive to our community and a potential safety hazard with burn building (really ?) we don't need send a message to our children that policing in our community has higher priority over the best education we can give to our kids and community. Please stop this nonsense!*

*54. Randyn Williams, 1721 Rondon Ct, Atlanta, GA 30316- The destruction of the South River Forest and creation of the new training facility are in conflict with the best interests of local residents. The agreement was made without public input, and serves to further damage trust in our leaders and police officers. In addition, as a homeowner in the area, I fear the increased noise and traffic may lower quality of life in the area. This facility can and should be built elsewhere. Do not place the desires of our public servants above that of their constituents. Stop cop city.*

*55. Joan Sichterman, 2260 Delverton Drive; Dunwoody, GA 30338- Dear Commissioners: My name is Joan Sichterman. My address is 2260 Delverton Drive; Dunwoody, GA 30338 (DeKalb County). I am writing today to support the appeal of the permit for the proposed Atlanta Police Foundation facility in Weelaunee Forest and the injunction to halt work at the site until the DeKalb Zoning Board of Appeals has reviewed the appeal. It would not be prudent to rush this forest destruction until all sides have been heard and all issues surrounding this controversy have been resolved. Thank you for your consideration,*

*56. Mark Ashworth (No Address)- My name is Mark Ashworth and I'm writing to request that you cease all progression on funding of the police training facility in the Atlanta woodlands. Simply put, all the money could be better put to use if invested in mental health, environmental issues and healing communities in need. Please STOP !!! Sincerely,*

*57. Isaiah Lewis (No Address)- Dear DeKalb County Board of Commissioners: My name is Isaiah Lewis, I live in DeKalb County, and I'm a voter. I'm writing today to urge you to stop the work order for the destruction of the South River/Weelaunee Forest. The current construction of Cop City is illegal, due to an active permit appeal, reckless, due to the lack of a full study of the environmental impacts it will have on the surrounding communities, and undemocratic, due to ignoring dozens of hours of public comment and protests against the project from around the country. The police training center poses a*

*great danger to public health in addition to the environment. It will contaminate a tributary of the South River with lead from the shooting range and the soil with heavy metals from bullets, shells, and grenade canisters. If you have any sense of moral courage, please stop the destruction of this forest. We do not need Cop City. We need the forest and we need to invest in social infrastructure that will actually keep us safe. Sincerely,*

*58. Mary Linda Richardson, Briarcliff area in Dekalb County- What are you afraid of happening if you don't build the facility? Why not renovate an old school or use public safety on ensuring people have resources they won't need to go looking for? All the science in the world and the cold blooded murder of an innocent child cannot soften your hearts? Do you not fear God? Why are you building a playground for your make shift thugs to practice killing people? Clearly the public has risked their freedom to show you they are against the facility. Why are you railing to build it? What are you afraid of happening if you go against a gang? They'll threaten you and your families. They become the thing that is violent so the question becomes why unleash that on anyone else?*

*59. Jon Reese, 3124 Alston Dr. Decatur, GA 30032- As a DeKalb County resident, I am surprised by the recent issuance of a land disturbance permit for the tactical training facility proposed that will destroy much of the Weelaunee Forest. The memorandum of understanding signed by DeKalb's CEO and Atlanta's mayor reflects disregard for transparency and aims to pacify the strong opposition of both community members whose quality of life will be most adversely impacted and the larger community that has expressed urgent concern about the forecasted environmental impacts and the questionable political influence wielded by the Atlanta Police Foundation. I am grateful to both the county officials and local activist groups that are challenging the issuance of the LDP, and I call on the commission to exercise its authority to halt continued land disturbance until these challenges are considered. The debacle that is "Cop City" and the poorly-conceived land swap with Blackhall Studios have given our county a black eye on the national and international front, but it's not optics that matter now. It's seeing that you commissioners can withstand political pressure that encourages you to act against the best interest of your constituents. We are not too far down the road for you to correct the course of this process and to listen and demonstrate your commitment to the lives of those who will suffer. You can prevent the irreplaceable destruction of mature trees, habitats, and watershed ecosystem, and you can demonstrate democratic respect for the thoughtfully-organized, well-informed, and vigilant opposition from a diverse array of concerned groups. You must look out for all of DeKalb County, not just the affluent, commercially successful, or vote rich areas. Not one of you would*



*choose to live within a mile of the proposed training center or have your children attend a school where the sounds of military style training would interrupt the happy squeals of children on a playground. Let the admonition to "do unto others" guide your thinking. I respectfully ask the commission to reverse course on its support for this irredeemable plan.*

*60. Jessie Brown, 2245 Edgemore Drive SE Atlanta, GA 30316- Hello there, My name is Jessie Brown and I have been a resident of Atlanta for almost 37 years and have lived in Dekalb for about half of that time of that time. I currently reside in East Atlanta just a couple miles north of the Weelaunee Forest. I'm an extremely active voter both in federal and local elections and I'm writing in specifically with respect to the police and fire department facilities proposed to be built in the Weelaunee Forest. I can't believe how thoroughly the constituents of this county are being ignored. The majority of residents are strongly opposed to not just the waste of public funds for a facility run by a private foundation that will be under limited obligation to disclose the use of not just those funds but future revenue, but also the basic premise of what the acres of green space will be converted into and what it's in service of. The proposed facility's use does nothing to enhance public safety. It doesn't take hundreds of acres of forest being clear cut to address the need for courses on de-escalation for our police. Enhancing the increasing militarization of our police and those across the country and the world through the GILEE program are proven to be ineffective in accomplishing de-escalation of police confirmations. Last year we achieved an annual all time high for officer involved killings. As a member in this community that lives within a couple of miles of the area, I can't say it gives me any comfort to know we'd be clear cutting acres of old growth forest, serving to help keep our air cleaner in spite of our horrible traffic, that's holding increased flooding at bay, just to let officers learn to more efficiently and aggressively corral citizens. Which brings me of course to the ecological impact. You are ignoring the feedback from the immediate community around Weelaunee telling you the flooding is already worsening and clear cutting acres of forest will make it worse even faster. Your plan to plant trees elsewhere is cute, but unenforceable and you can't magically recreate the root systems that help to reduce flooding. It's irresponsible, especially for a facility people in this city and frankly across the country don't want. \$30 million on a facility to enhance the militarization of police? Why not spend that money on food programs, educational programs, and other social programs that actually do have evidence to support that they reduce crime and lead to happier communities. We don't want gun fire near our communities, terrifying residents, leeching metal into the ground, and contaminating our watershed. APF can take the money they raised, not our \$30 million of tax payer money and go repair existing facilities and leave the forest*

*and dekalb residents alone. This whole farce is not just illegal, but also incredibly reckless and you're gambling with our lives and homes. With the little respect due, because you've been told overwhelmingly by the community you're ignoring, I'm asking the county to issue a stop work order immediately.*

*61. Mia Carvalho Guimaraes (No Address)- To Whom it May Concern: My name is Mia Carvalho Guimaraes, and I live in Fulton County, GA. I am receiving a Master's degree in public health at Emory University and am passionate about health disparities, especially in Georgia. I am extremely concerned about the Cop City program that aims to destroy the Weelaunee Forest in southeast Atlanta to create a police training center. I believe that creating a huge police training center will do nothing but militarize police and create more dangerous conditions for Georgia citizens, especially those who are Black and Brown who are usually targeted by police. These concerns became so obviously realized by the violent actions of police in dealing with forest defenders, especially the death of a forest defender by the hands of police. If this is not a clear indication that police need more regulations and not more training centers, I don't know what is. Beyond this, the construction of this militarized training center in a predominantly Black and working-class neighborhood continues the legacy of environmental racism in Georgia, negatively impacting the health and well-being of the community that calls this area home. How about y'all go build your little pretend war zone in Buckhead???? Is it because the residents of that area don't want to experience the psychological impacts of hearing gunshots and explosions? You're telling me they don't want lead in their water??? They don't pollutants in their river??? The people of this community have spoken, and for you to pretend you don't hear them is disgusting and undemocratic. I am demanding that you defend the rights of your citizens, protect Atlanta residents, and that preserve the beauty and natural resources of our world by cancelling the Cop City Project today. We will not stop peacefully demanding that this land be respected, this project be scrapped, and I truly hope that you will speak out on this issue and represent your constituents who are begging you to end this project. Sincerely,*

*62. Brandy Nalyanya, 141 E College Ave Decatur GA 30030- Hello Board, My name is Brandy Nalyanya and I am a resident of DeKalb County. I am writing this to express concern over the construction of the police training facility. We are all well aware of the environmental and ethical concerns in response to the construction of the facility. My message is short and a simple one, the community is watching and in opposition. What more must we say or do for you all to listen to us?*

63. *Brynne Velia, 215 North Avenue NE Atlanta, GA 30308- My name is Brynne and I am a voter who works and recreates in Dekalb County. The continued destruction of Welaunee forest for the building of Cop City goes against the active permit appeal and also the interest of the public. APF points to the community advisory board to defend their crimes, saying that the board represents the community and supports Cop City. However, the board is composed of people who are affiliated with APF and corporations, who have vested interest in the building of Cop City. Individuals who have previously served on the board, including an environmental engineer who is positioned to speak on the environmental harm Cop City will cause to the Atlanta community, have been removed from the board for speaking out against the project. The Atlanta community is well aware of the function of police in our communities. Police protect property, not people. We got a taste of the havoc Cop City will wreak on our community when the police killed Tortuguita for defending the forest last month. The police murder of Tortuguita confirmed what we already knew to be true: Black and Brown and Queer people will be disproportionately harmed by Cop City relative to their rich, white, cishet peers. Cop City is not being built to protect the people of Atlanta, but to protect rich property owners from the dissent of the general public. Police protect property, not people. The surveillance state, the 13th amendment, and the prison industrial complex function to preserve capitalism and put money in the pockets of the few at the expense of the many. Police do not make our communities safe. Police do not prevent crime. Police are a reactive force meant to keep the people in check while they benefit from investment in police militarization by large corporations. In fact, 60 million dollars of the total 90 million dollar project came from private donors. The other 30 million dollars come from the City of Atlanta, despite the fact that City Council voted to protect this same forest in 2016. The Welaunee forest was only leased to APF last year in response to public protests against the police murder of George Floyd in 2020. Cop City is an effort to militarize the police against the people of Atlanta. The people of Atlanta have been speaking out against this project for months and months and months. When will city representatives start listening to the people they are supposedly representing?*

64. *Zoe Bennett (No Address)- To the Dekalb County Board of Commissioners, My name is Zoë Bennett, and I both reside and work in Dekalb county. I am deeply concerned about the negative impact that the construction of a police training facility would have on the local environment, the surrounding communities, and the city at large. I urge you to issue a stop work order to halt the destruction of the South River / Weelaunee Forest, and to prevent this project from moving and further. Sincerely,*

65. *Kathleen Goodwin , 1989 Cheshire Bridge Rd- Dear Board of Commissioners: I am writing to you as a Master of Public Health student at Emory University to stand with the people of Atlanta in opposition of the destruction of the South River and Wealaunee Forest for the purpose of building a multimillion dollar police training facility. This area provides many cultural, ecological, and public health benefits that would be completely wiped out and not equally replaced if Cop City were built. Atlanta is KNOWN as the city in a forest, and this forest is beloved as such. Proponents of Cop City will say the area is dilapidated and unkempt, but is this a reason to tear it down completely? How little do we value our surroundings to just abandon them and pave over the issue when they deserve to be invested in? The money going into the Cop City project could just as easily be used to mark out fresh trails, clean up the trash, and make the place as welcoming to new visitors as possible. Moreover, the South River is an important and PROTECTED watershed that would be violated - to the detriment of the Atlanta ecosystem including our trees, our wildlife and our local residents- if it were to be cleared for Cop City. People NEED a clean safe space to enjoy the outdoors-- its been proven time and time again to improve physical and mental health. I implore you to issue a stop work order immediately and do you job to act on behalf of the people of Dekalb County. The will of the people is clear. STOP COP CITY.*

66. *Mari Robinson (No Address)- Hello, I'm a registered voter residing in dekalb county, and I want to voice my concern with the forward movement of construction on this training center. I don't approve of it's construction and the resulting destruction of part of this forest space. I don't know a single resident of dekalb who is interested in seeing this police training center built. I am not enjoying the ammunition being fired already on key road for as long as the firing range has been present. It's obtuse to bring more disruption and noise pollution to this forested part of the city. This is home to hundreds of species of plants and animals that will be negatively impacted not only by the noise and destruction this facility is destined to bring, but also the pollution to the water that runs through these woods. There are several lakes and ponds, as well as a tributary to the south river where run off from this construction as well as ammunition will end up harming its inhabitants and the animals that use such as a water source. The Environmental Protection Agency warns against lead contamination causes by shooting ranges close to waterways. The heavy metals from ammunition will contaminate soil as well as water. This will eminently lead to contaminated food sources for not only the creatures who dwell here but for humans who fish he South River. This watershed protects us from flooding as well as fights climate change. This project will disrupt ecosystems aswell as communities surrounding the site if it were to be continued. Sincerely a concerned citizen,*

67. *Erin Whitfield, 6835 Parkway Dr Lithonia GA 30058- Hello, My name is Erin Whitfield and I am a resident in Dekalb County. I would like to voice my concern for the destruction of the South River/Weelaunee Forest to build the police training center. Not only is the area around this center are predominately minority citizens, which already have a long and strong history of being victimized by police. The current construction is also illegal, due to an active permit appeal, reckless, due to the lack of a full study of environmental impacts, and undemocratic, due to ignoring dozens of hours of public comment and nationwide protests in opposition to the project. Additionally, the EPA has advised against this because of contamination to the river from the shooting ranges. This river is used for fishing. Polluting the river would not only cause harm to the wildlife population, but to citizens who fish there. The forest also protects our climate. Removing tree canopy in this area could cause surface temperatures to rise by up to 10°F. Thank you for your time,*

68. *Arin Yost (No Address)- Good morning, I am a resident of DeKalb County & have been for almost 5 years—I live just east of Decatur, inside the perimeter. I am writing to oppose the construction of the “cop city” project. As someone who lives here, I am primarily concerned about the environmental impacts of constructing a shooting range near a water source, which the EPA warns against. I wish DeKalb would spend their money strengthening our water management infrastructure instead of poisoning our creeks & rivers. I am also opposed to this project on the basis of democratic governance & code enforcement. As there is an active appeal against the construction, it is illegal for the Atlanta Police Foundation to continue. However, they have continued construction. It is unfair, unjust, & undemocratic for DeKalb County to selectively enforce their own laws. You lock up & kill citizens for protesting, but allow those with money to do whatever they want. I am writing to ask that DeKalb government listen to their constituents & behave responsibly—request more environmental studies, halt the construction while appeals work their way through the courts, & invest in sustainable infrastructure that will actually protect our communities. Thank you,*

69. *Veronica Roman (No Address)- Good morning, My name is Veronica Roman and I am a proud Atlanta-native, having lived in Dekalb County for 23 of my 33 years of life. This is my community and I'm submitting a public comment because of my great concern that the Atlanta Police Foundation (APF) is illegally continuing distribution of the South River/Weelaunee Forest despite an active permit appeal and widespread community opposition. Dozens of hours of public comment and nationwide protests in opposition to the project have been*

*ignored. The lack of disregard for our opposition is undemocratic. Politicians not opposed to this project point to the existence of a community advisory committee to suggest it represents the entirety of our community input. It does not. In fact, that so-called "community advisory committee" is packed with police department members and APF Funders which are not representative of the local community. Additionally, we can see that both former and current members of the advisory committee (like Lily Ponitz, Amy Taylor, and Nicole Morado) are now uniting against the project. I demand a democratic process that listens to the entire community. MY community. Please issue a stop work order immediately. Thank you,*

*70. Marijke Kylstra, 2149 Main St NW Atlanta GA 30318- As a previous resident of DeKalb County for multiple years and a citizen of Atlanta, I write to strongly oppose the building of the police training center. Of all the things that the City of Atlanta so badly needs - public transit, affordable housing, well-paying jobs, and much more - a training center to further militarize the police force and cause greater violence against Black and Brown people in Atlanta is last on the list. The people have spoken out against this repeatedly, and the center is being built in predominantly Black neighborhoods and tearing down forest that is essential to Atlanta's health and well-being. The City is also providing this land essentially for free despite intense and ongoing public opposition. Protestors have been bravely standing against this, and one was tragically killed by police this past month. This project is a disaster. Building something that will cause great harm to Black & Brown people in a Black neighborhood despite major opposition - it's horrifying. The City Council needs to listen to the people of Atlanta, grow a backbone, and stand up for Black and Brown communities against something that will only cause greater destruction and harm. Please stop construction of the training center and listen to the people you claim to represent.*

*71. Will Lance, Sandy Springs Georgia- Three things are super dangerous about the plan to build the police training center (a.k.a. "Cop city"): first, it's way too close to the airport, making it inconceivable how it wouldn't pose a danger to airplanes taking off and landing. Then, secondly, there is the oft-stated fact it would serve to make our police force into a militarized police force. And third and perhaps most importantly, it's being largely funded by corporates who then no doubt get much more say than the rest of us in how the new militarized police force functions-and that's extremely dangerous to a democracy.*

*72. John Sitter, 461 Emory Circle NE Atlanta, GA 30307- Dear Commissioners, I urge you to protect Weelaunee Forest. The proposed training center should be*

*reduced in size and located in a less environmentally rich area. At the very least, this issue should be put to a referendum. Sincerely,*

*73. Retta Sola, 771 Brownwood Ave SE Atlanta 30316- To whom it may concern, As a concerned citizen of Dekalb County, I am pleading with you to immediately cease construction of the Atlanta training facility. I am a nurse, a mother and an activist. I, my husband, my three young kids, my mom, my sister and her kids have been involved in the protest against cop city for over a year. Your involvement in the development of Cop City will destroy over 350 acres of precious forests, described by many as the lungs of Atlanta and crucial to the health and air quality of the community. We need community helpers not trained killers who only react to crime or do crime themselves. So far, this facility has resulted in the murder of a forest defender by police. We need investment in housing, education, healthcare, parks, and young kids and their caregivers. For the long term sake of the safety and health of Atlanta, please cancel the lease for the facility and stop taxpayer dollars from funding a project the community does not support. Sincerely,*

*74. Melisa A. DuBois, 4830 Forestglade Court Stone Mountain GA 30087-1310- Stop gaslighting us. We all know exactly what damage this installation will do to the most vulnerable of us. The damage is the point. Your lip-service is just further inflaming the situation. Prove you have the people's best interest at heart by NOT investing in more violence. If you can't find it in yourselves to actually care, ACT like it matters that you are funding violence and destroying the environment in the process. THAT is your actual job, NOT putting more money in your pockets.*

*75. Kelly Alexander, 151 Ellis Street NE Atlanta GA 30303-2440- Good morning all, I am writing as a concerned citizen – it is never a good idea to cut down trees or to build near rivers or natural water sources. Scientists and citizens have learned that we need these natural resources and the natural ecosystem. To disturb them is to decide willingly that we do not care about the future of our communities and the future lives of our children and grandchildren. Please reconsider zoning and do not harm the natural environment with concrete and asphalt.*

*76. Andrea Krakovsky (No Address)- Dekalb County Board of Commissioners, I am a resident of Dekalb county. This is where I live, this is where I work, and this is where I vote. I am writing to you to express my overwhelming concern and fear over the construction of a police training facility built on Weelaunee forest. The environmental impact will be severe and irreplaceable. Building a shooting*

*range and burn buildings will have a severe health impact on the community surrounding, which is predominantly Black and Brown families. This will pollute our air, and contaminate our soil, and thus our food. This is environmental racism in action, and it CAN be stopped. We have seen time and time again that increased police presence brings violence, not peace. At their very best, police arrive after a crime has occurred, they are not able to prevent it. In fact, we have already seen countless examples of police brutality harming Black and Brown community members right here in DeKalb County, including the murder of an environmental activist right here in the forest. I ask that you look with compassion at the real implications of your actions. This is not an asset, this is not a safety measure, this is not protecting your community. This is direct harm. This is violence. Thank you for your time,*

*77. Paige Salter, 1721 Rondon Ct Atlanta 30316- My name is Paige Salter and I own a home about a mile and a half away from the planned site for the military style police training center that I'll refer to as Cop City. As a homeowner and taxpayer in DeKalb County I am horrified at the idea that military style training will be built in my neighborhood. The trails at Intrenchment Creek Park that my husband and I used to stroll on have already been destroyed. The forest that they want to cut down is a big part of the reason we chose to purchase a home in this area after being renters in the area for years. We already hear the police guns from their shooting range on Key Rd. I can't imagine how much of our peaceful spot in the city will be ruined when there is more military style firearms going off. Lastly, and most importantly, I absolutely oppose training police for war in Atlanta. Our tax dollars should be going towards community improvement, not weapons of war to use against civilians. Police should be working on building relationships with the community, not training to kill us more efficiently. I'm begging that you listen the the community and STOP any further development or funding of this atrocity. The amount of data available to show that this type of policing is NOT effective is absolutely wild. I'm unable to understand why no one in DeKalb County government is willing to stand up for the community that is vehemently against Cop City. Thank you,*

*78. Tessa Deardoff (No Address)- Good morning! Thank you to the lovely person whose job it is to collect these emails :) My name is Tessa Deardorff, and while I am not a DeKalb County resident, I am a SW Atlanta resident who spends most of their household and recreational budget in DeKalb County. I am also a local commercial real estate attorney (please note, these comments in my personal, not professional, capacity) with knowledge of the development process. I ask that the County issue a stop work order pending the expiration of the appeals period or final appeal of any applicable rezoning and land disturbance permits issued by*



*the County for the proposed Atlanta Public Safety Training Center. I will keep this short in favor of others with more information to add; however, given the historic redevelopment of Atlanta, especially South Atlanta, at the hands of corporate America and at the expense of our forests and our citizens of lesser means, the County should do its part to halt any land disturbance activities until the project is reevaluated by its stakeholders. It is clear from leaked communications and past experience that the Atlanta Police Fund will not halt land disturbance activities without a direct government order. Thank you for your time, consideration, and public service.*

*79. Teresa Lynne (No Address)- Hi, my name is Teresa Lynne I am a realtor and I live a few minutes north of the Weelaunee Forest. I'm here to voice my strong opposition to the building of Cop City on this vital piece of forest land that the city itself has repeatedly called "One of the Four Lungs". There are so many reasons not to take out this forest just environmentally. A wide array of species, and the effects on the area in terms of flooding, and warming, would cause disease in our city. This should be plenty of reason not to do this. Most of our city's people is against this awful Cop City and we demand we be heard and that this Stop Work Order is properly put into place.*

*80. Chelsea Shegadevitch (No Address)- My name is Chelsea Shegadevitch, I live 10 minutes north of the Weelaunee Forest. I'd like to first honor my friend Tortuguita who was murdered by the Atlanta Police Department on January 18th in the Weelaunee Forest. You'd think after someone was murdered by the Atlanta Police Department that they would have the decency to put this project on hiatus. Police are trained for thousands of hours and they're still murdering our innocent people. Everything about what is happening at the Weelaunee Forest is illegal and disturbing. Dekalb County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 27 Section 7.5.2 (D) requires that while an appeal is pending in the Zoning Board of Appeals for a residentially zoned property land disturbance and any construction activity must come to a stop. If the zoning board of appeals has not made a clear decision on the appeal why is the Atlanta Police Foundation continuing to illegally work on the site? It's ignoring the voice of the people in favor of corporate donors. It's careless because EPA and SRWA have already stated that the river needs to be cleaned, and so the construction of this facility is greatly advised against. We know for a fact that any construction of this forest would violate a state regulatory cap on sediment runoff in the already heavily polluted Intrenchment Creek. Please issue a stop work order, so that the zoning board of appeals can come to a conclusion on this matter fairly.*

*81. Sandra - Lee Phipps, 309 S. McDonough St Decatur GA 30930- I am a*

*citizen of Dekalb County. I demand dekalb county commissioners vote or act to immediately place a stop work order for the illegal destruction being done in the Welaunee Forest and Intenchment Creek Park. This construction is being done to build a police training facility by the Atlanta Police Fund without the public being first consulted or the environmental damage accessed. It must be stopped and the residents in this area must have a voice / vote before any construction / forest destruction takes place. This work is illegal. Amy Taylor has filed an appeal to stop the activity as a community member on the advisory board. The current work continues and is illegal due to an active appeal and must be stopped immediately. I believe dekalb county must listen to the majority of citizens calling who are against this project and want their voices to be heard.*

*82. Lisa Hagley, 2524 Midvale Ct Tucker, GA 30084- To whom it may concern: There is no direct evidence presented that the proposed development dubbed "cop city" will in any way improve training for our police force or the Atlanta community at large. This endeavor sounds like a political puff piece and a colossal waste of money and land. Thank you*

*83. Torren Hoyord (No Address)- Hello, I am a homeowner that lives in Unincorporated DeKalb County approximately 1.5 miles from the proposed "training center". I strongly oppose everything about the entire project and as a resident of DeKalb County have been completely ignored by CEO Michael Thurmond, the person that is supposed to represent my community's best interests. Nothing about this project serves my community and in fact will be detrimental to everyone that lives in the surrounding area. Additionally, the environmental, cultural, and historical impacts due to this project will be detrimental and irreversible. The destruction that is continuing in the South River/Weelaunee Forest despite an active permit appeal, widespread opposition, and unaddressed environmental concerns is disgusting. A stop work order must be issued immediately. Sincerely,*

*84. Jeff Lawrence (No Address)- I believe a stop work order on this new training facility is warranted. It seems pretty clear to me that there are Many parts of this process that seem questionable to me; and I feel the project is dire need of reassessment, especially in regards to the impact on nearby communities, the environment, our nearby waterways. When it comes to my own personal values, I find the idea of clearing out our city's green spaces to replace with a police training center is morally repugnant. I would say you should be ashamed of yourself if you think this is a good idea, or something that will be good for this city.*

85. *Stephen Standifer, 809 5th Ave SE Decatur AL 35601- As someone living in a neighboring state that visits DeKalb County often, I am appalled to see this project moving forward despite public outcry, and an active permit repeal. The environmental impacts alone should be reason enough to stop this project. Without the forest in tact, what do you plan to do to prevent flooding? Why on earth would you think it's a good idea to put a firing range where lead can easily contaminate The South River. Dissenting members of the advisory committee have been removed, quit, and overlooked. The rest of the country and particularly, the south east, is watching what you are doing to your community. History and voters will not remember your actions fondly if you continue to ignore them. They will not soon forget that you murdered a protestor in an effort to continue down your destructive path. I urge you to use common sense and empathy. STOP THIS PROJECT.*

#### **D. 10:00 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING**

Citizens may speak for or against an item that is considered by law to be a zoning ordinance and each side will have ten minutes to present its case. Citizens may also speak for or against an item that is placed on the public hearing agenda but is not a zoning ordinance. In that case, each side will have five minutes to present its case. In the event there is more than one speaker per side, speakers must divide their time in order to complete their full presentation within the ten-minute time allotment, or the five minute time allotment. When the buzzer sounds to indicate that time has run out, the speaker will be expected to immediately cease speaking and to leave the podium area. Citizens may also email statements or documents related to public hearing items for inclusion in the public record by submitting such statements or materials by 9:00 a.m. on the date of the public hearing to [PublicHearing@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:PublicHearing@dekalbcountyga.gov). The body of your email must include a reference to the particular public hearing item to which your statement or documents apply by agenda number and your first and last name, followed by your address. By submitting an email related to any public hearing item, you agree to have your name, address and email entered into the record/minutes. In-person comments will be heard first. Prior to speaking, an in-person speaker shall complete a speaker card and present it when approaching the podium. If an in-person speaker has any documents for the commissioners, the speaker shall provide 10 copies when approaching the podium. Seven copies are for the commissioners and the remaining copies are for the planning director, the county attorney and the clerk. In all zoning ordinance and traffic calming cases, staff shall make their recommendation for action to the Commission first followed by applicants or citizens speaking in favor of the item. Applicants in zoning ordinance cases shall have the right to reserve time for rebuttal. Opponents of a zoning ordinance item shall have no right of rebuttal. For all other items placed on the public hearing agenda, applicants or citizens speaking in favor of the item shall speak first followed by opponents of the item.

*\* No Public Hearing Cards Were Received*

**Chief Executive Office**

[2023-0122](#)

**Commission District(s):** All

To adopt the 2023 Operating Budget

**MOTION was made by Steve Bradshaw, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be deferred to the next meeting, until February 28, 2023 for the Second Public Hearing. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**GIS Department**

[2023-0155](#)

**Commission District(s):** 5 & 7

A Resolution to Set a Date and Time for a Public Hearing Related to the Consideration of Abandonment of a 1.13-acre Section of Right of Way Known as Pleasant Hill Way Located in Land Lots 229 & 252 of the 16th District of DeKalb County, Georgia.

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. Commissioner Steve Bradshaw was absent during this vote. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Bradshaw, and Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**“DECISION ONLY” ITEMS – NO PUBLIC HEARING**

**Planning & Sustainability**

[2022-2264](#)

**COMMISSION DISTRICT(S): 2 & 6**

Application of Andrew Rutledge to rezone properties from R-75 (Residential Medium Lot) zoning district to MR-2 (Medium Density Residential-2) zoning district to allow the construction of single-family attached townhomes, at 1602 Scott Boulevard.

**MOTION was made by Michelle Long Spears, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be to approved the substitute Site Plan dated January 25, 2023 and Conditions dated February 15, 2022 with a friendly amendment to the January 25, 2023 Site Plan from the floor by Commissioner Ted Terry to "Allow the clearance of invasive species in the undisturbed buffer".**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2022-2271](#)

**COMMISSION DISTRICT(S): All Districts**

Application of the Director of Planning & Sustainability for a text amendment to Chapter 27-5.1.10 (Maximum Lot Coverage) of the Zoning Ordinance to remove the non-vehicular use restriction on pervious materials.

**MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be deferred, until March 14, 2023 for Decision Only. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**E. APPEALS**

NONE

**F. APPOINTMENTS**

**Airport**

[2022-2020](#)

**Commission District(s):** District 1

Appointment to Post 9 of the DeKalb-Peachtree Airport Advisory Board of DeKalb County - Mr. Will Childs

**MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be approved the substitute. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**Board of Commissioners - District 3**

[2023-0178](#)

**Commission District(s):** District 3

To Confirm the re-appointment of Jerrie Bason to the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs Citizen Advisory Board

**MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**ITEMS FOR RECORDING IN THE MINUTES**

**Board of Commissioners - District 3**

[2023-0150](#)

**Commission District(s):** District 3

Recording of the reappointment of Eugene Henry to the Airport Advisory Board

**MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. Items 2023-0150, 2023-0153, 2023-0156, 2023-0161, 2023-0177, 2023-0179, 2023-0180, 2023-0181, 2023-0182 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0153](#)

**Commission District(s):** District 3

Recording of the reappointment of Davis Kipp to the Animal Services Advisory

**MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. Items 2023-0150, 2023-0153, 2023-0156, 2023-0161, 2023-0177, 2023-0179, 2023-0180, 2023-0181, 2023-0182 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0156](#)

**Commission District(s):** District 3

Recording of the reappointment of Bobbie Sanford to the Charter Review Commission

**MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. Items 2023-0150, 2023-0153, 2023-0156, 2023-0161, 2023-0177, 2023-0179, 2023-0180, 2023-0181, 2023-0182 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0161](#)

**Commission District(s):** District 3

Recording of the reappointment of Alice Bussey to the Citizens oversight Committee for SPLOST Revenues Expenditures

**MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. Items 2023-0150, 2023-0153, 2023-0156, 2023-0161, 2023-0177, 2023-0179, 2023-0180, 2023-0181, 2023-0182 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0177](#)

**Commission District(s):** District 3

Recording of the reappointment of Vivian Moore to the Planning Commission

**MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. Items 2023-0150, 2023-0153, 2023-0156, 2023-0161, 2023-0177, 2023-0179, 2023-0180, 2023-0181, 2023-0182 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson



[2023-0179](#)

**Commission District(s):** District 3

Recording of the reappointment of James Murphy, Jr. to the Technical Board of Appeals

**MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. Items 2023-0150, 2023-0153, 2023-0156, 2023-0161, 2023-0177, 2023-0179, 2023-0180, 2023-0181, 2023-0182 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0180](#)

**Commission District(s):** District 3

Recording of the reappointment of Rev. Victor Speakman to the Watershed Customer Service & Billing Advisory Board

**MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. Items 2023-0150, 2023-0153, 2023-0156, 2023-0161, 2023-0177, 2023-0179, 2023-0180, 2023-0181, 2023-0182 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0181](#)

**Commission District(s):** District 3

Recording of the reappointment of Cherry Willis to Watershed (CIP) Advisory Group

**MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. Items 2023-0150, 2023-0153, 2023-0156, 2023-0161, 2023-0177, 2023-0179, 2023-0180, 2023-0181, 2023-0182 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0182](#)

**Commission District(s):** District 3

Recording of the reappointment of Dr. Alice Bussey to the Zoning Board of Appeals

**MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. Items 2023-0150, 2023-0153, 2023-0156, 2023-0161, 2023-0177, 2023-0179, 2023-0180, 2023-0181, 2023-0182 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**G. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Board of Commissioners**

[2023-0139](#)

**Commission District(s):** All

Approval of Minutes for the February 7, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0139, 2023-0159, 2023-0183 2023-0184, 2023-0112, 2023-0132, 2023-0133, 2023-0081 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**Board of Commissioners - District 2**

[2023-0159](#)

**Commission District(s):** District 2 and 6

Artwork Addition to Mason Mill Park

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0139, 2023-0159, 2023-0183 2023-0184, 2023-0112, 2023-0132, 2023-0133, 2023-0081 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**Board of Commissioners - District 3**

[2023-0183](#)

**Commission District(s):** District 3

Allocation to appropriate American Rescue Plan Award funds assigned to POETA Account #105744.63258.521209.01.03.602479 reserved for District 3 (Amount Not to Exceed) \$40,000 to How Big is Your Dream Foundation to build stronger communities and to help mitigate efforts for those impacted by COVID-19 by educating and bringing awareness of the public health emergency, or its negative economic impacts and any other essential needs caused by the global pandemic

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0139, 2023-0159, 2023-0183 2023-0184, 2023-0112, 2023-0132, 2023-0133, 2023-0081 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0184](#)

**Commission District(s):** District 3

Appropriate American Rescue Plan Award funds assigned to POETA Account #105744.63258.521209.01.03.602479 reserved for District 3 (Amount Not to Exceed) \$100,000 to Community Based Organization to assist with Rent, Mortgage, Utilities, Food any other essential needs caused by the global pandemic.

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0139, 2023-0159, 2023-0183 2023-0184, 2023-0112, 2023-0132, 2023-0133, 2023-0081 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**Board of Commissioners - District 4**

[2023-0112](#)

**Commission District(s):** District 4

To Appropriate \$15,000 from the district 4 2023 reserve for appropriation funds for the MicroLife Institute Design Studio Project for Greater Scottdale community and Scottdale Overlay District.

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0139, 2023-0159, 2023-0183 2023-0184, 2023-0112, 2023-0132, 2023-0133, 2023-0081 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and CEO**

[2022-2608](#)

**Commission District(s):** all

Approval of Minutes of the Special Called Meeting of December 6, 2022

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be deferred to the next meeting, until February 28, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0132](#)

**Commission District(s):** All

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Meeting of January 24, 2023

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0139, 2023-0159, 2023-0183 2023-0184, 2023-0112, 2023-0132, 2023-0133, 2023-0081 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0133](#)

**Commission District(s):** All

Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Zoning Meeting of January 26, 2023

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0139, 2023-0159, 2023-0183 2023-0184, 2023-0112, 2023-0132, 2023-0133, 2023-0081 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**Fire & Rescue Services**

[2023-0081](#)

**Commission District(s):** All Commission Districts

Acceptance of a Donation from U.S. LBM Foundation in the amount of \$1,000.00.

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0139, 2023-0159, 2023-0183 2023-0184, 2023-0112, 2023-0132, 2023-0133, 2023-0081 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**H. PRELIMINARY ITEMS**

**Chief Executive Office**

[2023-0160](#)

**Commission District(s):** All

To Appropriate \$500,000 from the Tourist Product Development CIP Account to Fund the Remaining Phases of the Youth Farm Project

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be deferred and assigned to the Planning, Economic Development & Community Services Committee (PECS), and return to the Board on February 28, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**Public Works - Roads & Drainage**

[2023-0121](#)

**Commission District(s): All**

Reimbursement for Traffic Signal Equipment Relocations, Upgrades, Recycling, and Damage

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**Purchasing & Contracting**

*Purchasing & Contracting - to ERPS Committee*

[2023-0032](#)

**Commission District(s): All**

CA - Statewide Contract (SWC) 99999-SPD-NVPWA06913-0004 Public Safety Two-Way Radios: for use by the Police Services (PS) E911 unit, and Marshal's Office. This contract consists of the purchase of APX 6000 Portable Radios accessories, Essential Services, Device Programming and Installation. Awarded To Motorola Solutions, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$1,635,363.54.

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

*Purchasing & Contracting - to FAB Committee*



[2023-0046](#)

**Commission District(s): ALL**

RA - Ratification of Change Order No. 2 to Contract 1092093 for Auditing Services (Multiyear Contract): for use by the Department of Finance. This contract consists of auditing services of the County’s Financial Statements. Awarded to Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$59,745.65.

**MOTION was made by Steve Bradshaw, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be deferred and assigned to the Finance, Audit & Budget Committee (FAB), and return to the Board on February 28, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

*Purchasing & Contracting - to OPS Committee*

[2023-0009](#)

**Commission District(s): ALL**

CA - The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS USA) Audio Visual Equipment, Supplies, and Services Contract No. 220704: for use by the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT). The contract consists of piggybacking off the TIPS USA Contract No. 220704 for equipment replacement within Magistrate Courtrooms; inclusive of audio visual (AV) equipment, installation, and training. Awarded to BIS Digital, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$168,000.00.

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-009, 2023-0050, 2023-0057 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0050](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

CO - Change Order No. 1 to 1279315 Application Maintenance and Operations Support for DeKalb County's Gov CX City 311 application: for use by the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT). This contract consists of providing the annual maintenance and operation support for DeKalb County's Gov CX City 311 application. This request is to increase the contract funds and term through February 29, 2024. Awarded to Speridian Technologies, LLC. Amount not to Exceed: \$212,640.00.

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-009, 2023-0050, 2023-0057 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0057](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

CA - Cooperative Agreement for Professional Services for Implementation of Oracle Financial and Procurement Cloud System: for use by the Department of Innovations and Technology (DoIT). Consists of piggybacking off the competitively let GSA Contract No. 47QRAA10D001P to provide professional services for the implementation of an Oracle Financial and Procurement Cloud system to replace the current on-premises system. Awarded to Deloitte Consulting, LLP. Amount Not To Exceed: \$17,033,628.00.

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-009, 2023-0050, 2023-0057 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

2023-0060

**Commission District(s): ALL**

CO - Change Order No. 5 to Contract Nos.: 1191813, 1191817, 1191818 and Change Order No. 6 to Contract No. 1191816 and Change Order No. 7 to Contract No. 1191815 General Contractor Services (Multiyear): for use by the Departments of Facilities Management (FM), Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (RPCA), Fire Rescue Services, Watershed Management (DWM) and Library (DCPL). These contracts consist of providing general contractor services for minor construction projects throughout the County. Awarded to: Autaco Development, LLC, Kissberg/Parket-Fry JV, LLC, SoCo Contracting Company, Inc., Engineering Design Technologies, Inc., and Greenheart Construction. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$12,596,074.03.

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be deferred to the next meeting, until February 28, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0061](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

CO - Change Order No 2 to Contract Nos.: 1297560 and 1297570 On-Call Plumbing Services (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew): for use by the Departments of Facilities Management (FM), Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (RPCA), Fire Rescue (FR), Watershed Management (DWM) and Community Development (CD). These contracts consist of the repair, replacement, maintenance and installation of plumbing fixtures at County-owned facilities. Awarded to B&W Mechanical Contractors, Inc. and J2 Connect, Inc. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$1,285,000.00.

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0061, 2023-0086, 2023-0087 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0086](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

CA - Statewide Contract No. 99999-SPD-SPD000155-0001 Truck Chassis and Truck Bodies: for use by Public Works-Fleet Management to be used by Recreation, Parks & Cultural Affairs (RPCA). Consists of piggybacking off the competitively let Statewide Contract No. 99999-SPD-SPD000155-0001 to purchase two (2) 2-wheel drive regular tilt cab work trucks. Awarded to Rush Truck Centers of Georgia, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$222,954.00.

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0061, 2023-0086, 2023-0087 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0087](#)

**Commission District(s): ALL**

REN-Lubricants (Annual Contract-1st of 2 Options to Renew): Contract Nos.:

1284154, 1284156, 1284155, 1284157 and 1284158 for use by Public

Works-Fleet Management and the Department of Watershed Management (DWM).

These contracts consist of the purchase of lubricants, (motor oil, hydraulic fluids, transmission fluids, etc.) used for County vehicles and on-site equipment. This

request is to exercise the 1st renewal option through March 31, 2024. Awarded to

Dilmar Oil Co., The McPherson Companies, Inc., Lubrication Engineers, Inc., Taylor

Enterprises, Inc. and Cadence Petroleum. Total Amount Not To Exceed:

\$925,000.00.

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0061, 2023-0086, 2023-0087 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0093](#)

**Commission District(s): ALL**

CO - Change Order No. 1 to Contract Nos.: 1262401, 1262403, 1262413 and 1262406 Purchase of Autos, Vans, Trucks & Accessories (Annual with 2 Options to Renew): for use by Public Works-Fleet Management. These contracts consist of purchasing replacement vehicles to enable County personnel to complete daily tasks that require the use of automobiles. Awarded to: Wade Ford, Inc., Hardy Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, Inc., Hardy Family Ford, Inc. and ZT Auto CDJR Union City, LLC. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$5,400,000.00.

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be deferred to the next meeting, until February 28, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0107](#)

**Commission District(s): ALL**

RES - Rescind Award to Avaya, Inc. under Agenda Item No. 2022-2276 for Avaya Support and Licensing: for use by the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT). Consists of piggybacking off the competitively let Statewide Contract No. 99999-SPD-T20120501-0004. This request is to rescind the award made to Avaya, Inc. and re-award to the correct vendor who will be paid for services. Award to Carousel Industries, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$1,123,391.88.

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be deferred to the next meeting, until February 28, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

*Purchasing & Contracting - to PECS Committee*

2023-0015

**Commission District(s):** 4

CO - Change Order No. 1 to Contract 126950 Maintenance of Mystery Valley Golf Course (Multiyear): for use by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (RPCA). This contract consists of the maintenance of the Mystery Valley Golf Course. Awarded to: Cypress Golf Management, LLC, Amount Not To Exceed: \$258,000.00.

**MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be deferred to the next meeting, until February 28, 2023. Item 2023-0015, 2023-0016,2023-0074 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

2023-0016

**Commission District(s):** 5 & 7

RA - Ratification of Change Order No. 1 to Contract 1208634 Construction of East DeKalb Community and Senior Center at Bruce Street: for use by the Department of Community Development (CD). This contract consists of the construction of the new East DeKalb Community and Senior Center. Awarded to: Diversified Construction of Georgia, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$176,162.50.

**MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be deferred to the next meeting, until February 28, 2023. Item 2023-0015, 2023-0016,2023-0074 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0074](#)

**Commission District(s):** 3

REN - Contract No. 1130987 Maintenance of Sugar Creek Golf Course (Annual Contract - 4th Renewal of 4 Options to Renew): for use by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (RPCA). This contract consists of maintaining the golf course grounds and facilities. This request is to exercise the 4th renewal option through March 31, 2024 with cost increases and increase scope of work. Awarded to: Cypress Golf Management, LLC dba Cypress Golf Course Services. Amount Not To Exceed: \$894,739.42.

**MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be deferred to the next meeting, until February 28, 2023. Item 2023-0015, 2023-0016,2023-0074 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

*Purchasing & Contracting - to PWI Committee*



[2023-0013](#)**Commission District(s): All**

CO - Change Order No. 1 to Contract Nos.: 1188014 and 1188015 Street Sweeping Services (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew): for use by Public Works - Beautification. These contracts consist of providing street sweeping services to the County on a regularly scheduled basis to remove litter, dirt, rocks, and other debris from County streets. This request seeks to ratify a previously provided ninety (90) day contract term increase; increase the contract term through March 31, 2023 for both contracts; and increase funds for Contract No. 1188014 (Pateco). Awarded to Pateco Services, LLC and AC Sweepers and Maintenance, Inc. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$6,100.00.

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0013, 2023-0017, 2023-0044, 2023-0052, 2023-0095 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0017](#)**Commission District(s): All**

CO - Change Order No. 2 to Contract Nos.: 1176675 and 1272165 for County Street and Roadway Litter Removal (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew): for use by Public Works - Sanitation and Beautification. These contracts consist of litter removal services at 37 locations within the County. This request seeks to ratify a previously provided sixty (60) day contract term increase and increase the contract funds and term through March 31, 2023 for both contracts. Awarded to Russell Landscape, LLC and American Eagle, LLC. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$198,332.78.

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0013, 2023-0017, 2023-0044, 2023-0052, 2023-0095 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0044](#)

**Commission District(s):** 2 and 6

CO - Change Order No. 1 to Contract No. 1288704 for North Decatur Road Roundabout Improvements (120 days): for use by Public Works-Transportation. This contract consists of construction of mini-roundabouts at the North Decatur Road intersections with Springdale Road and Oakdale Road, including related curb, ramps, and sidewalks. This request is to increase the contract term through June 30, 2023 and to ratify a previously provided sixty (60) day contract term increase. Awarded to: SD&C, Inc. CONTRACT TERM INCREASE ONLY.

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be approved the substitute. Item 2023-0013, 2023-0017, 2023-0044, 2023-0052, 2023-0095 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0052](#)

**Commission District(s):** All

REN - Contract No. 1286042 Herbicide Growth Regulator Services (Annual Contract - 1st Renewal of 2 Options to Renew): for use by the Department of Public Works Sanitation - Beautification. This contract consists of providing herbicide application services on County roads, right of ways, and other locations. This request is to exercise the 1st renewal option through March 31, 2024. Awarded to American Eagle, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$150,000.00.

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0013, 2023-0017, 2023-0044, 2023-0052, 2023-0095 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0095](#)

**Commission District(s):** ALL

RA - Ratification of Change Order No. 1 to Contract 1252356 for Disaster Recovery and Sewage Cleaning Services (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew): for use by the Departments of Facilities Management (FM) and Watershed Management (DWM). This contract consists of providing disaster recovery cleaning services of water and sewage and supplementary services for repairs to systems affected by spills from heating, ventilation, air conditioning and plumbing. This request seeks to ratify an emergency purchase that overspent the available contract funds. Awarded to Belfor USA Group. Amount Not To Exceed: \$1,200,000.00.

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0013, 2023-0017, 2023-0044, 2023-0052, 2023-0095 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0228](#)**Commission District(s): All**

LB - Invitation No. 22-101543 SPLOST Phase II Resurfacing Project (Area A) (365 Days): for use by Public Works - Roads and Drainage (R&D). Consists of providing SPLOST (Phase II - Area A) road resurfacing to various roads located in DeKalb County. Recommend award to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder: E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$22,483,778.80.

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be deferred and assigned to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee (PWI), and return to the Board on February 28, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**Watershed Management**[2023-0091](#)**Commission District(s): All**

Acceptance of Fluoride Equipment Grant Reimbursement funds from the Georgia Department of Public Health, CDC, Water Fluoridation Program administered by GRWA in the amount of \$22,809 to provide reimbursement in support of the optimal water fluoridation for Dekalb County water which benefits the public health of over 750,000 people served by its water system at a cost to the County

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0113](#)

**Commission District(s): 4 & 7**

Agreement for the Construction and Financing of Sewer Upgrades with Captura Rockbridge Acquisition I LLC Not to Exceed \$150,500.

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be deferred for 30 days, until March 14, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0114](#)

**Commission District(s): 2 & 6**

Agreement for the Construction and Financing of Sewer Upgrades with Corso Druid Hills LLC Not to Exceed \$647,000.00.

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0114, 2023-0125, 2023-0131 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0125](#)

**Commission District(s): 5 & 7**

Agreement for the Construction and Financing of Sewer Upgrades with Hidden Hills Condo LLC

Not to Exceed \$291,000 for Phase 1 and \$190,500 for Phase 2.

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0114, 2023-0125, 2023-0131 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0131](#)

**Commission District(s):** 3 & 6

Agreement for the Construction and Financing of Sewer Upgrades with TAMA BAG FACTORY QBE LLC Not to Exceed \$279,500 (the “Agreement”).

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. Item 2023-0114, 2023-0125, 2023-0131 were heard together. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**I. ITEMS FOR DECISION BY THE BOARD**

**Board of Commissioners - District 1**

[2021-2855](#)

**Commission District(s):** All Districts

A Request to Consider Establishing County Website Update

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be deferred for 30 days, until March 14, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**Board of Commissioners - District 6**

[2021-3338](#)

**Commission District(s):** All Commission Districts

To Amend Chapter 20, Article X concerning domestic partnerships.

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be deferred for 60 days, until April 11, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2021-3499](#)

**Commission District(s):** All Commission Districts

DeKalb County’s adoption of a safe gun storage ordinance to impact and prevent accidental injuries and deaths.

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be deferred to the next meeting, until February 28, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2022-2060](#)

**Commission District(s):** All Commission Districts

A Resolution Supporting the Creation of a Task Force to Honor the Life of Reverend Dr. Hosea Lorenzo Williams, Sr., and Recognizing His Accomplishments as Worth of an Enduring Memorial

**MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be deferred for 30 days, until March 14, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2022-2118](#)

**Commission District(s):** All District Commission Districts

Adopt A Resolution to Raise the Minimum Wage for DeKalb County Employees to a Living Wage

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be deferred to the next meeting, until February 28, 2023. Commissioner Steve Bradshaw was absent during this vote. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Bradshaw, and Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

[2023-0036](#)

**Commission District(s):** Commission District 6 and District 7

To approve a \$125,000.00 over a two-year period from District 6 ARP appropriations to Clarkston Community Health Center (CCHC) to provide medical equipment at the new CCHC facility located at 4038 Rockbridge Rd.

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be deferred for 30 days, until March 14, 2023. Item 2023-0036, 2023-0089, 2023-0031 were heard together. Commissioner Steve Bradshaw was absent during this vote. Item The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Bradshaw, and Commissioner Cochran-Johnson



[2023-0089](#)

**Commission District(s):** Commission District 6

To approve a \$200,000 District 6 ARP appropriation to Support the Roots Down GreenHive Leadership Program Over a 2- Year Period to Increase and Provide Mental Health Resources/Opportunities to Young Adults While Enhancing Short and Long-Term Community Green Space Improvements

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be deferred for 30 days, until March 14, 2023. Item 2023-0036, 2023-0089, 2023-0031 were heard together. Commissioner Steve Bradshaw was absent during this vote. Item The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Bradshaw, and Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**Board of Commissioners - District 7**

[2023-0031](#)

**Commission District(s):** District 6 & District 7

To Approve American Rescue Plan Grant Funds In The Amount Of \$125,000 000 Over A Two-Year Period Assigned to POETA Account

105744.63258.521209.01.07.602479 Reserved For The District 7

Appropriation To The Clarkston Community Health Center (CCHC) to provide medical equipment at the new CCHC facility located at 4038 Rockbridge Rd

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be deferred for 30 days, until March 14, 2023. Item 2023-0036, 2023-0089, 2023-0031 were heard together. Commissioner Steve Bradshaw was absent during this vote. Item The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Bradshaw, and Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**Chief Executive Office**

[2022-1045](#)

**Commission District(s):** All Commission Districts

To Renegotiate the 1984 Grady Operating Agreement between DeKalb County, Fulton County, and the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority

**MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be deferred and assigned to the Planning, Economic Development & Community Services Committee (PECS), and return to the Board on April 25, 2023.**

**Commissioner Steve Bradshaw was absent during this vote.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Bradshaw, and Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**Purchasing & Contracting**

*Purchasing & Contracting - to PWI Committee*

[2022-2124](#)

**Commission District(s):** ALL

LB - Invitation No. 22-101516 Asphaltic Concrete Pavement Repairs: for use by Departments of Watershed Management (DWM); Public Works - Roads & Drainage (R&D); Recreation, Parks & Cultural Affairs (RPCA); and Facilities Management (FM). Consists of providing road repair and maintenance services on various County roads. Recommend award to all responsive and responsible bidders: A&S Paving, Inc.; Greenway One, Inc.; and HEH Paving, Inc. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$9,718,913.17.

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be approved the substitute. Commissioner Steve Bradshaw was absent during this vote. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Bradshaw, and Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

2022-2352

**Commission District(s): ALL**

LB - Invitation No. 21-101466 Rental of Various Heavy Equipment (Three (3) Year Multiyear Contract): for use by the Departments of Public Works - Roads & Drainage (R&D) and Sanitation. Consists of the rental of various heavy equipment. Recommend award to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidders: H & E Equipment Services, Inc.; Herc Rentals, Inc.; Sunbelt Rentals, Inc.; and Yancey Brothers Company. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$1,120,000.00

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be deferred to the next meeting, until February 28, 2023. Commissioner Steve Bradshaw was absent during this vote. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Bradshaw, and Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

**J. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

**K. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**POLICY OF NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY IN COUNTY SERVICES.**

DeKalb County Government does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities or exclude them from participating in or receiving benefits of its services, programs, or activities, based on disability. Janet Essix, DeKalb County Government’s Employee Relations Manager and ADA Coordinator, is designated to coordinate the County’s compliance with Part 35 of the Department of Justice regulations regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act. Janet Essix may be contacted at 1300 Commerce Drive, 1st Floor, Decatur, GA 30030, 404.371.2309, to request information about access for persons with disabilities to County services, programs and activities, or to discuss a grievance regarding an impediment to such access. Ten days’ notice is requested for special accommodations.

ADJOURNMENT:

**There being no further official business, MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be approved to adjourn the February 16, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting at 11:48 a.m. Commissioner Steve Bradshaw was absent during this vote. The motion carried by the following vote::**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Patrick, Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Terry

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Bradshaw, and Commissioner Cochran-Johnson



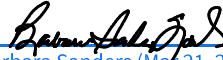
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Robert Patrick  
Presiding Officer



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Michael Thurmond  
Chief Executive Officer



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Barbara Sanders (Mar 21, 2023 13:40 EDT)

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Barbara Sanders-Norwood  
County Clerk