



# DeKalb County Government

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

## Agenda Item

File ID: 2024-0347

Walk-On Item

2/27/2024

Public Hearing: YES ☐ NO ☒

Department: Board of Commissioner - District 7

**SUBJECT:**

Commission District(s): All Districts

Resolution to address eliminating blight caused by unattended donation boxes.

**Information Contact:** Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, Commissioner and Edward “Ted” Terry, Commissioner

**Phone Number:** 404-371-2899 and 404 371-4909

**PURPOSE:**

To adopt a resolution urging the administration to research and establish an appropriate regulatory scheme for eliminating blight caused by unattended donation boxes.

**NEED/IMPACT:**

Unattended donation boxes have been placed in locations across DeKalb County and the failure to properly maintain them and the space around them has resulted in an unsightly and littered appearance and this proposed Resolution urges the Administration to research proper ways to address it through the Code Compliance Administration, with the help of the Law Department and others as is necessary and appropriate.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None

**RECOMMENDATION:**

To approve the resolution and authorize the chief executive officer to execute all necessary documents.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY,  
GEORGIA TO CONTROL BLIGHT AND LITTER THROUGH THE REGULATION  
OF UNATTENDED DONATION BOXES ACROSS DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA.  
AND TO REMEDIATE ADVERSE EFFECTS TO COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT, AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**WHEREAS**, unattended donation boxes have been placed in locations across DeKalb County and the failure to properly empty and clean them has resulted in an unsightly and littered appearance near said donation boxes; and,

**WHEREAS**, donation boxes attract dumping and the disposal of household furniture, appliances, trash, and other items not suitable for reuse, which can pose an immediate adverse effect upon the public health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the litter caused by unattended donation boxes adversely affects our environment and society and distracts from DeKalb County's beauty, decreases property values, hinders economic development, and affects the aesthetics of communities; and,

**WHEREAS**, unattended donation boxes have serious environmental consequences, often used as trash bins, so it is necessary to address litter through a variety of forms to ensure best practices, control outcomes, and to diminish the harmful effects to community; and,

**WHEREAS**, studies have shown people who live in clean areas with lots of green spaces have better mental and physical health than those who live in areas with a litter problem; and people who live in a poor-quality environment are more likely to suffer from mental health issues, including anxiety and depression; and,

**WHEREAS**, the State of Georgia spends approximately \$17 million annually to clean up roadside trash and litter and DeKalb County spends a significant sum of money on litter clean up, making it necessary to take swift actions to control, prevent, or eliminate caused by unattended donation boxes to save tax revenue; and,

**WHEREAS**, litter is illegal and unattended donation boxes costs unmeasurable expenses in labor associated with code compliance and law enforcement and it is necessary to eliminate their presence to reduce the cost burden associated with the patrol, monitoring, and code enforcement necessary as a result of the negative conditions they cause; and,

**WHEREAS**, all states have laws against litter and DeKalb County is no exception, but laws alone are insufficient in the prevention of litter; therefore, it is necessary to ensure the community's health, safety, and welfare by regulating unattended donation boxes for clothing or other salvageable personal property; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, as follows:

The Governing Authority of DeKalb County acknowledges the need to prevent nuisance, blight, and unsanitary and dangerous conditions, resulting from the use of unattended donation boxes and the need to control, regulate, or eliminate their use in DeKalb County.

The Governing Authority of DeKalb County enlists the combined efforts of the Law Department and Code Enforcement to present data, legislative remedies, and viable options to eliminate the blight caused by unattended donation boxes. The options considered shall include but not be limited to a reasonable regulatory scheme such as a “3-strikes” policy of prohibiting property owners to continue to house unattended donation boxes after receiving 3 violations within a 60 day period.

The Governing Authority of DeKalb County authorizes the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County to execute all necessary documents for such purposes.

**ADOPTED** by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MEREDA DAVIS JOHNSON**  
Presiding Officer  
Board of Commissioners  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**APPROVED** by the Chief Executive Officer, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MICHAEL L. THURMOND**  
Chief Executive Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**BARBARA H. SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC**  
County Clerk  
Board of Commissioners and  
Chief Executive Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
**ZACHARY L. WILLIAMS**  
Chief Operating Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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**VIVIANE H. ERNSTES**  
County Attorney  
DeKalb County, Georgia