



# DeKalb County Government

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

## Agenda Item

File ID: 2018-2760

Substitute

10/23/2018

Public Hearing: YES  NO

Department: Fire & Rescue Services

**SUBJECT:** Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Stonecrest for Fire & Rescue Services  
**Commission District(s):** All

**Information Contact:** Darnell D. Fullum, Chief of Fire & Rescue

**Phone Number:** 678-406-7731

**PURPOSE:**

To consider approving an intergovernmental agreement between the County and the City of Stonecrest for fire and rescue services and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute all necessary documents.

**NEED/IMPACT:**

This intergovernmental agreement provides fire & rescue services to the City of Stonecrest and signifies a mutually beneficial, efficient and cooperative working relationship between the two governments.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Pursuant to Intergovernmental Agreement.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT  
FOR THE PROVISION OF FIRE RESCUE SERVICES  
BETWEEN  
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA and  
THE CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA**

**THIS INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, is entered into by and between DeKalb County, Georgia ("County") and the City of Stonecrest, Georgia ("City").**

WHEREAS, DeKalb County, Georgia is a constitutionally created political subdivision of the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stonecrest is a municipality created by the 2016 Georgia General Assembly pursuant to Senate Bill 208 (hereinafter referred to as "SB 208"); and

WHEREAS, the County and City desire to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement for the County to provide fire rescue services within the boundaries of Stonecrest; and

WHEREAS, the County and the City desire to maintain a mutually beneficial, efficient and cooperative relationship that will promote the interests of the citizens of both jurisdictions.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the following mutual obligations, the County and City agree as follows:

**ARTICLE 1  
PURPOSE AND INTENT**

The purpose of this Agreement is to provide fire rescue services within the City.

**ARTICLE 2  
DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of the Agreement, the following terms shall be defined as:

2.1 **"Fire Chief"** means the director of the DeKalb County Fire and Rescue department or designee.

2.2 **"Fire Code"** means (1) those applicable provisions of state law related to fire rescue services, including the state fire safety rules, the International Fire Code and (2) those applicable provisions of the Code of DeKalb County, Georgia related to fire rescue services including but not limited to Chapter 12 of the Code of DeKalb County, Georgia and (3) those applicable provisions of the Ordinances of the City of Stonecrest, Georgia that may be enacted during the term of this Agreement related to fire rescue services.

2.2 **"Fire prevention tax district"** means the area of land in DeKalb County, Georgia that has been designated as the fire prevention tax district in which the County imposes

and collects from the taxpayers in the district a separate fire tax for the purpose of defraying the cost of the County fire rescue services provided to the taxpayers in the district.

2.3 **"Fire Rescue Services"** means fire suppression, community risk reduction, fire protection, disaster mitigation, rescue, hazardous material response and emergency medical service transports service provided by County Fire and Rescue Department personnel.

### **ARTICLE 3 TERM OF AGREEMENT**

The term of the Agreement is for the current calendar year, commencing at 0000 hours on January 1, 2019. This Agreement shall automatically renew without further action by the City or County on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each succeeding year for a total of fifty (50) years concluding at 2400 hours on January 1, 2069 unless previously terminated in accordance with the termination provisions of this Agreement. At the conclusion of this term, the City will be solely responsible for providing all Fire Rescue Services within its boundaries unless extended by mutual agreement by both governing bodies.

### **ARTICLE 4 COMPENSATION AND CONSIDERATION**

4.1 For the Fire Rescue Services to be rendered during the term of this Agreement, the City agrees that the County shall remain entitled to impose and collect the special service tax district and fire prevention district tax annually in the same manner and at the same rate that such tax is imposed and collected within the portion of the DeKalb fire prevention tax district that is located in unincorporated portions of DeKalb County. The City agrees to remain within the DeKalb fire prevention tax district, and nothing in this Agreement shall preclude the County's right to continue to collect DeKalb fire prevention district taxes from the residents of the City for all Fire Rescue Services originating within the City of Stonecrest.

4.2 The City agrees that the County remains entitled to impose, collect and retain all ambulance transport fees. Ambulance transport fees charged shall be equal to those imposed upon residents of unincorporated DeKalb County, whether in effect at the time of this Agreement or approved by the DeKalb County Governing Authority at some future date. Nothing in this Agreement shall preclude the County's right to continue to collect such fees for ambulance transport calls originating from within the City of Stonecrest.

### **ARTICLE 5 FIRE CHIEF**

The Fire Chief will direct and manage the daily fire rescue operations in the City and supervise the delivery of Fire Rescue Services contracted for in this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 6 SERVICES**

6.1 During the term of this Agreement, the County shall provide the same Fire Rescue Services to the City as are provided in unincorporated area of DeKalb County. Such Fire Rescue Services shall equal or exceed the Fire Rescue Services provided by the County in 2018 within the area that comprises the City. The County shall provide Fire Rescue Services on a continual 24-hour per day basis. The County and the City intend to enter into mutual aid agreements, which shall govern the parties in case of emergencies requiring assistance from neighboring fire departments.

6.2 Response times in the City shall remain consistent with those response times in unincorporated DeKalb County. County-wide response reports will be provided by the Fire Chief if requested by the City Manager.

6.3 All emergency incidents within the City shall operate under the National Response Plan (NRP) utilizing the National Incident Management System (NIMS). During the term of this Agreement, the City agrees that it will not adopt any ordinance that in any way amends, repeals or replaces the applicable fire rescue provisions of the Code of DeKalb County, Georgia, including but not limited to Chapter 12 of the Code of DeKalb County, Georgia and any amendments thereto without the written consent of the Fire Chief. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

## **ARTICLE 7 EQUIPMENT**

The County agrees to provide DeKalb County Fire and Rescue personnel assigned to work within the City with all necessary equipment and motor vehicles in connection with this Agreement in order to perform the agreed upon Fire Rescue Services, in accordance with DeKalb County Fire and Rescue Department policies and procedures. The County agrees to maintain said equipment and vehicles and to provide replacements as necessary during the term of the Agreement. All DeKalb County Fire and Rescue officers assigned hereunder shall wear the uniform and insignia as issued and ordered by the DeKalb County Fire and Rescue Department.

## **ARTICLE 8 AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE THE LAW IN STONECREST**

8.1 The Fire Chief shall designate the fire rescue officers to be sworn in and take an oath administered by an official authorized by the City of Stonecrest to administer oaths, as prescribed by O.C.G.A. §§ 45-3-1 and 45-3-10.1 prior to undertaking fire rescue duties pursuant to this Agreement to enforce the Fire Code.

8.2 Every fire and rescue officer of the County assigned to the City shall still be deemed to be a sworn officer of the County while performing the services, duties and responsibilities hereunder and is vested with all other powers of the County that are necessary to provide the Fire Rescue Services within the scope of this Agreement.

8.3 The Fire Chief shall be and hereby is vested with the additional power to enforce the Fire Code, to make arrests or issue citations incident to the enforcement of the Fire Code, and to perform other tasks as are reasonable and necessary in the exercise of their powers. This vesting of additional powers to enforce the Fire Code is made for the sole and limited purpose of giving official and lawful status to the performance of Fire Rescue Services provided by fire and rescue officers within the City of Stonecrest.

8.4 Fire and Rescue officers shall enforce the Fire Code and shall appear in the Municipal Court of the City of Stonecrest as necessary to prosecute cases made therein. The City further agrees to provide, at its own expense, citation books containing the printed Municipal Court information to the fire rescue officers working within the City.

## **ARTICLE 9 EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

All County Fire and Rescue Department personnel operating in the City, as well as any other County personnel operating under this Agreement are and will continue to be employees of the County for all purposes, including but not limited to duties and responsibilities, employee benefits, grievance, payroll, pension, promotion, annual or sick leave, standards of performance, training, workers compensation and disciplinary functions. All County Fire and Rescue Department personnel operating in the City as well as any other sworn personnel assigned under this Agreement are and will continue to be part of the DeKalb County Fire and Rescue Department command structure. Fire and rescue personnel are under the supervision of the DeKalb County Fire Chief.

## **ARTICLE 10 FIRE INSPECTION AND PREVENTION**

10.1 Until the City has notified the County that the City will provide fire marshal services, the County shall also provide fire inspection and prevention services which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Review of all interior finished, new structures, additions and renovation of all commercial buildings and multi-family buildings, whether existing or to be constructed in the City;
- b. Reviewing plans for both new construction and renovations of existing structures;
- c. Final inspections for all commercial and multi-family buildings;
- d. Inspections for business licenses or change of occupancy;
- e. Inspections required for setting occupancy loads;
- f. Enforcement of fire lane and handicap parking regulations; and
- g. Enforcement of the Fire Code.

10.2 The County shall be entitled to collect the plan review, permit and inspection fees in connection with commercial and multi-family buildings constructed or renovated in the City if such structures or plans are reviewed or inspected by the Fire and Rescue Department. Fees charged shall be equal to those imposed upon residents of unincorporated DeKalb County for similar permits, inspections and plan reviews, whether in effect at the time of this Agreement or as approved by the DeKalb County Governing Authority at some future date.

10.3 Construction plans and accompanying documents for all buildings subject to the provisions of this Agreement shall be submitted to the Fire Chief. Interior finish work and minor building additions may make use of the Fire and Rescue department "walk through" process.

10.4 Until the City has notified the County that the City will be providing "fire marshal services", following completion of final inspection of commercial and multi-family buildings by the Fire Chief:

- a. The City shall not issue any Certificate of Occupancy without the express written approval of the Fire Chief.
- b. The City shall issue the Certificate of Occupancy when the City is satisfied that the project has complied with all City requirements.
- c. The City shall be responsible for notifying utilities companies in connection with the issuance of Certificates of Occupancy.
- d. The issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy by the City shall in no way obligate the City to make any plan review or inspections of the building, and it is specifically agreed that the City shall have the right to rely upon the plan review and inspections performed by the Fire Chief.

10.5 Retaining walls, tents, signs, greenhouses, satellite dishes, Christmas tree lots, emission inspections stations, and similar projects or structures shall not be subject to the provisions of this Agreement, and the City shall continue to issue permits and/or approvals for such projects.

10.6 Both the City personnel and the County Fire and Rescue officers are authorized to issue citations for violations of the Fire Code.

10.7 The City shall be responsible for inspections of all erosion control and site work on all projects within the City.

10.8 The City shall be responsible for enforcement of building code requirements and shall issue all citations necessary to prosecute any building code violations in the Municipal Court of Stonecrest.

## **ARTICLE 11 RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING**

The County Fire and Rescue Department is the central repository for all departmental records and makes available public records as defined by the Georgia Open Records Act, O.C.G.A. 50-18-70, *et seq.* During the term of this Agreement, the County will continue to maintain all reports relating to Fire and Rescue Department activity within the City. Except as limited by any provision of state or federal law, the City may request, review and access data and County records at a mutually agreed upon time to ensure compliance with this Agreement.



With a copy to: County Attorney  
1300 Commerce Drive, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Decatur, Georgia 30030  
(404) 371-3024 (facsimile)

If to the City: City Manager  
City of Stonecrest  
3120 Stonecrest Blvd.  
Stonecrest, GA 30038  
(470) 299-4214 (facsimile)

With a copy to: City Attorney  
City of Stonecrest  
3120 Stonecrest Blvd.  
Stonecrest, GA 30038  
(470) 299-4214 (facsimile)

With a copy to: Thompson Kurrie, Jr.  
City Attorney  
3475 Lenox Road, NE  
Suite 400  
Atlanta, Georgia 30326  
(770) 698-9729 (facsimile)

**ARTICLE 16  
EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT**

This Agreement may be extended at any time during the term by mutual written consent of both parties so long as such consent is approved by official action of the City Council and approved by official action of the County governing authority.

**ARTICLE 17  
NON-ASSIGNABILITY**

Neither party shall assign any of the obligations or benefits of this Agreement.

**ARTICLE 18  
ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

The parties acknowledge, one to the other, that the terms of this Agreement constitute the entire understanding and agreement of the parties regarding the subject matter of the Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding and agreement between the Parties concerning the subject matter of this Agreement, and supersedes all prior oral or written agreements or understandings. No representation oral or written not incorporated in this Agreement shall be binding upon the City or the County. All parties must sign any subsequent changes in the Agreement.



**ARTICLE 19  
SEVERABILITY, VENUE AND ENFORCEABILITY**

If a court of competent jurisdiction renders any provision of this Agreement (or portion of a provision) to be invalid or otherwise unenforceable, that provision or portion of the provision will be severed and the remainder of this Agreement will continue in full force and effect as if the invalid provision or portion of the provision were not part of this Agreement. No action taken pursuant to this Agreement should be deemed to constitute a waiver of compliance with any representation, warranty, covenant or agreement contained in this Agreement and will not operate or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach, whether of a similar or dissimilar nature. This Agreement is governed by the laws of the State of Georgia without regard to conflicts of law principles thereof. Should any party institute suit concerning this Agreement, venue shall be in the Superior Court of DeKalb County, Georgia. Should any provision of this Agreement require judicial interpretation, it is agreed that the court interpreting or construing the same shall not apply a presumption that the terms hereof shall be more strictly construed against one party by reason of the rule of construction that a document is to be construed more strictly against the party who itself or through its agent prepared the same, it being agreed that the agents of all parties have participated in the preparation hereof.

**ARTICLE 20  
BINDING EFFECT**

This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, the respective parties' successors.

**ARTICLE 21  
INDEMNITY**

21.1 It is the intent of the parties to be covered under the auspices of any applicable immunity granted by law. Only to the extent permitted by law, shall the City defend, indemnify and hold harmless the County and its officers, employees, or agents from any and all liability, losses or damages, including attorneys' fees and costs of defense, which the County or its officers, employees, or agents may incur as a result of any claim, demand, suit, or cause of action or proceeding of any kind or nature arising out of, relating to, or resulting from the negligent performance of this Agreement by the City, its employees, officers and agents. The County shall promptly notify the City of each claim, cooperate with the City in the defense and resolution of each claim and not settle or otherwise dispose of the claim without the City's participation.

21.2 It is the intent of the parties to be covered under the auspices of any applicable immunity granted by law. Only to the extent permitted by law, shall the County defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City and its officers, employees, or agents from any and all liability, losses or damages, including attorneys' fees and costs of defense, which the City or its officers, employees, or agents may incur as a result of any claim, demand, suit, or cause of action or proceeding of any kind or nature arising out of, relating to, or resulting from the negligent performance of this Agreement by the County, its employees, officers, and agents. The City shall promptly notify the County of each claim, cooperate with the County in the defense and resolution of each claim and not settle or otherwise dispose of the claim without the County participation.

September 27, 2018

21.3 The indemnification provisions of this Agreement shall survive the termination of this Agreement and for any claims that may be filed after the termination date of this Agreement, provided the claims are based upon actions that occurred during the term of this Agreement.

**ARTICLE 22  
COUNTERPARTS**

This Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be an original, and all of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

**[SIGNATURES APPEAR ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE]**

September 27, 2018

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the County and the City have executed this Agreement through their duly authorized officers.

This \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

**DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MICHAEL J. THURMOND**  
Chief Executive Officer

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**BARBARA H. SANDERS, CCC**  
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners  
and Chief Executive Officer

**APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DARNELL D. FULLUM**  
Chief, Fire and Rescue

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MARIAN C. ADEIMY**  
Assistant County Attorney

**CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JASON LARY, SR.**  
Mayor

**APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MICHAEL HARRIS**  
City Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
**THOMPSON KURRIE, JR.**  
City Attorney