



DeKalb County Government

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

Agenda Item

File ID: FileID

Substitute

5/12/2020

Public Hearing: YES NO

Department: Board of Commissioners

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All Districts

A resolution by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners requesting Governor Brian Kemp, CEO Michael Thurmond and all DeKalb County Mayors establish “point of care” on-site testing facilities and mobile testing sites in low income areas within DeKalb County in order to protect minorities that are being disproportionately impacted by COVID – 19 and to collect and accurately report racial COVID – 19 data on rates of infection by case and outcome and to continue promoting social distancing.

Information Contact: Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, District 5 Commissioner

Commissioner Larry Johnson, District 3 Commissioner

Phone Number: 404-371-2159

PURPOSE:

To establish a “Point of Care” on – site testing in low income areas of DeKalb County.

NEED/IMPACT:

This resolution seeks to protect all communities in DeKalb that are being disproportionately impacted by COVID – 19 and encourages all municipalities, the County and the State to work collaboratively to collect data and establish critical testing sites in low income communities.

The substitute item also includes language that encourages the establishment of mobile testing sites and requests the Governor, CEO, and municipalities in DeKalb to continue to promote social distancing.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No Fiscal Impact

RECOMMENDATION:

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

A RESOLUTION BY THE DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP, CEO MICHAEL THURMOND AND ALL DEKALB COUNTY MAYORS ESTABLISH “POINT OF CARE” ON-SITE TESTING FACILITIES AND MOBILE TESTING SITES IN LOW INCOME AREAS WITHIN DEKALB COUNTY IN ORDER TO PROTECT MINORITIES THAT ARE BEING DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY COVID – 19 AND TO COLLECT AND ACCURATELY REPORT RACIAL COVID – 19 DATA ON RATES OF INFECTION BY CASE AND OUTCOME AND TO CONTINUE PROMOTING SOCIAL DISTANCING.

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus “COVID – 19” outbreak as a pandemic; as a result, the United States, the State of Georgia, and County of DeKalb are currently responding to stop the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a national emergency in response to the COVID – 19 pandemic and on March 14, 2020, the Governor of Georgia issued a public health state of emergency to address the COVID – 19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, DeKalb County CEO Michael L. Thurmond issued an Executive Order declaring a public health and economic state of emergency in DeKalb County; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, DeKalb County CEO Michael L. Thurmond issued an Executive Order declaring a state of emergency and ordering DeKalb County residents to Shelter-In-Place; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these declarations of emergency and the COVID-19 pandemic, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners is requesting Governor Brian Kemp, CEO Michael Thurmond and all DeKalb County Mayors establish “point of care” on-site testing facilities and mobile testing sites in low-income areas within DeKalb County in order to protect minorities that are being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and to collect and accurately report racial COVID-19 data on rates of infection by case and outcome and to continue promoting social distancing based on the information contained herein; and

WHEREAS, as of May 4, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that there were a total number of 1,122,486 confirmed COVID – 19 cases and 65,735 deaths due to the disease in the United States and its territories; and

WHEREAS, as of May 4, 2020, the Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH) reported that there were a total number of 29,283 confirmed COVID – 19 cases and 1,275 deaths due to the disease in the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Board of Health reported that there were a total number of 1,932 confirmed COVID – 19 cases and 44 deaths due to the disease in DeKalb County; and

WHEREAS, of the 1,932 cases reported on May 1, 2020, 801 cases did not reflect racial data and of the 1,131 cases that did identify by race, 64% identified as Black, 23% identified as White, 7% identified as other, 6% identified as Asian; and

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WHEREAS, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health, African Americans in Georgia outnumber those contracting and dying from COVID – 19 by more than a 2-to-1 ratio; and

WHEREAS, in the State of Louisiana, African Americans are 32% of the population but account for 70% of the deaths from the Coronavirus; in Michigan, African Americans are 14% of the population but account for 40% of the deaths from the Coronavirus; and in the State of Georgia, African Americans account for 49% of the deaths from the Coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, according to the information reported by the Georgia Department of Public Health, 36% of those with the disease in the State of Georgia are African American; and

WHEREAS, early data is making it apparent that African Americans are disproportionately dying from COVID – 19 because of higher poverty rates and experience poorer health outcomes than the national average due to systematic inequality; in addition, preexisting conditions such as hypertension, asthma, and diabetes are common in the African American community and increase the likelihood of having complications from COVID - 19; and

WHEREAS, African Americans are less likely to receive COVID – 19 testing and are more likely to work low wage “essential” jobs; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID – 19, testing opportunities should be established for Georgia’s most vulnerable communities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration approved Cellex, Chembio, and Ortho Clinical Diagnostic’s ability to market new COVID – 19 antibody tests; and

WHEREAS, State, County, and City leaders are requesting Governor Brian Kemp, DeKalb CEO Michael Thurmond and all DeKalb County Mayors to coordinate COVID – 19 response efforts and to expand COVID – 19 testing in communities disproportionately impacted by COVID – 19; and

WHEREAS, to stop the spread of COVID-19 it is recommended that individuals practice social distancing outside of their homes by avoiding large gatherings, refraining from gathering in groups and maintaining a distance of six feet from other people; and

WHEREAS, during this local emergency and in the interest of protecting public health, preventing transmission of COVID – 19 is essential; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners requests that Governor Brian Kemp, CEO Michael Thurmond and DeKalb County Mayors establish “point of care” on-site testing facilities and **mobile testing sites** in low income areas in DeKalb County in order to protect minorities that are being disproportionately impacted by COVID – 19 and to collect and accurately report racial COVID – 19 data on rates of infection by case and outcome.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners requests that Governor Brian Kemp, CEO Michael Thurmond and DeKalb County Mayors continue to promote social distancing to prevent transmission of COVID-19 and the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners encourages all DeKalb County residents to practice social distancing while outside of their homes to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption, the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Governor Brian Kemp, the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Health, Dr. Kathleen Toomey, M.D., the DeKalb County Municipal Association, the DeKalb County Board of Health and members of the DeKalb County House and Senate Delegations.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, 2020.

STEPHEN BRADSHAW
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this ____ day of _____, 2020.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia