

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA TO CREATE A DEKALB ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMISSION.

WHEREAS DeKalb County is committed to promoting equity and addressing systemic injustices in all areas of public policy and governance; and

WHEREAS Environmental Justice is a critical issue for DeKalb County, which has a large and diverse population that is disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards and risks; and

WHEREAS, President Biden's administration has launched the Justice40 Initiative to ensure that 40% of the benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy go to communities that have been historically marginalized and polluted; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County recognizes the importance of aligning with the principles of the Justice40 Initiative to address environmental injustice and promote sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the DeKalb Environmental Justice Commission is DeKalb County's opportunity to affect county-wide improvements and equitable protection for the environment and resident health, especially in areas that have been historically under invested and overburdened by pollution.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Authority of DeKalb County hereby create a DeKalb Environmental Justice Commission as outlined herein:

1. The mission of the DeKalb Environmental Justice Commission shall be to conduct a scientific analysis, including case studies, and prepare a comprehensive report that include, at minimum, the followings:
 - a. A list of targeted facilities, which may pose a threat to human health or the environment, located in DeKalb County together with historical and current demographic information, including health statistics of the population surrounding each site;
 - b. A review of past and current, ongoing, enforcement actions taken by the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources or the federal Environmental Protection Agency for violations affecting human health;
 - c. A review of factors, including economic factors, that may have caused facilities which pose a threat to human health to be concentrated in low-income neighborhoods and neighborhoods populated largely by African Americans;
 - d. A review of statutes, rules, and policies of DeKalb County and a review of the role those entities played in making or influencing siting and land use decisions which may pose a threat to human health in the vicinity of the targeted facilities;
 - e. A review of data and methodologies by which DeKalb County might become more aware of situations in which neighborhoods are at particularly high risk from threats to human health;
 - f. A review of enforcement statutes and rules related to targeted facilities in order to assess whether actual enforcement practices have resulted in uneven outcomes and to determine if alternative or stronger enforcement measures would result in more equitable treatment for people from low-income families;

- g. A review of the efforts by state and local agencies in ensuring equitable representation of people of color and people from low-income families in the work force and in helping youth from those neighborhoods learn about career opportunities in the environmental field;
 - h. A review of methods used by the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources in communicating with people of color and people from low-income families and recommendations of how the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources can be more accessible to such people;
 - i. A review of approaches to ensure consideration of environmental equality and justice issues when implementing policies, procedures, and legislation within agencies and the institutions;
 - j. A review to determine the advisability of creating a permanent board or other entity to consider environmental justice issues in DeKalb County.
 - k. The report shall be completed and submitted to the CEO and the Board of Commissioners no later than September 30, 2028. A preliminary report shall be issued and made available to the public no later than September 30, 2026.
2. In addition, the Governing Authority creates the Citizen's Environmental Justice Commission to:
 - a. Hold organizational meetings, providing updates to the public on the development of the report, and hold public hearings.
 - b. Prepare budget considerations for the Board of Commissioners' yearly budget and mid-year budget.
 - c. Prepare model legislation as it deems appropriate for consideration by the Board of Commissioners.
 - d. Monitor the progress and make recommendations towards DeKalb County's current environmental efforts including but not limited to the county's Consent Decree and 100% Clean Energy and Clean Transportation Plan especially in how they address environmental justice.
 - e. Provide quarterly updates to the Board of Commissioners during the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee.
3. The DeKalb Environmental Justice Commission shall also have the authority to:
 - a. Intervene in proceedings before the Board of Commissioners relating to environmental matters affecting people of color and people from low-income families. The commission shall not take any action which would impede or obstruct an investigation by the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources, any law enforcement agency, or any judicial authority.
4. The DeKalb Environmental Justice Commission shall be composed of 17 voting members and 5 non voting members, totaling 22 members. Members must be residents of unincorporated DeKalb County and of voting age. No member shall hold elective office and upon qualifying to run for elective office a member automatically resigns from the DeKalb Environmental Justice Commission. Each member's term will coincide with the terms of the elected official appointing them. A member may be removed from the DeKalb Environmental Justice Commission in writing by the elected official who made the appointment, with a copy of the removal letter sent to the Clerk to the CEO and BOC (Clerk). Appointments shall include representatives from impacted communities and environmental justice organizations. The appointments are as followed:

- a. Each County Commissioner shall appoint one member
 - b. The CEO shall appoint three members
 - c. The DeKalb County House Delegation shall appoint two members
 - d. The DeKalb County Senate Delegation shall appoint two members
 - e. The DeKalb County School Board shall appoint one member
 - f. The DeKalb Municipal Association shall appoint one member
 - g. The DeKalb Soil and Water Conservation shall appoint one member
 - h. The following DeKalb County Departments shall also appoint one non voting member:
Watershed, Sanitation, Transportation, Planning and Sustainability, and Decide DeKalb
5. The DeKalb Environmental Justice Commission shall be constituted and hold its first organizational meeting by March 31, 2025. The DeKalb Environmental Justice Commission shall be managed through the Board of Commissioners and a Central Staff Policy Analyst will be assigned as a liaison between the two. All meetings by the DeKalb Environmental Justice Commission shall be open to the public and notice of such meetings, including date, time, and place, shall be posted on the County website at least one week in advance of the meeting. All members shall receive notice of all meetings of the DeKalb Environmental Justice Commission at least one week in advance of the meeting by email, phone call, or in-person at a prior meeting. At each meeting, the public shall be granted time for public comment. Rules of procedure shall be based upon the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order. The DeKalb Environmental Justice Commission shall elect a Chairperson or two Co-Chairpersons at the first meeting of each year. A quorum will consist of 9 members.
6. The Citizen's Environmental Justice Commission shall set its own meeting schedule and establish the meeting agendas.
- a. The Citizen's Environmental Justice Commission shall meet monthly, alternating between an organizational meeting and public hearing.
 - b. Prior to a meeting of the Citizen's Environmental Justice Commission or of any committee, an agenda of all matters expected to come before the Citizen's Environmental Justice Commission or committee at such meeting shall be posted and made available to the public as required by state law.
 - c. Location of organizational meetings and public hearings shall be at a place designated by the Chairperson. At least one public hearing shall be held in each county commissioner district. All meetings and hearings shall be at a place large enough to accommodate not only the DeKalb Environmental Justice Commission but also interested citizens. The meeting place chosen shall be open and accessible, and free of any admission charge or similar restrictions to the public. The DeKalb Environmental Justice Commission may hold meetings virtually, subject to the same rules and procedures as in person meetings.
 - d. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or by a majority of the DeKalb Environmental Justice Commission members requesting such special meeting in writing and delivered to the Chairperson. Notice shall be given in the same manner as regular meetings.
 - e. The CEO or his designee may propose the initial agenda for the organizational meeting and location.
 - f. The agenda shall be set by the Chairperson subject to amendment and revision by official action of the Commission. The DeKalb Board of Commissioners' Public Works

and Infrastructure Committee may also add items to the agenda. The agenda shall be consistent with any plan of work approved by the Citizen's Environmental Justice Commission.

7. Regular meetings of the Citizen's Environmental Justice Commission shall be recorded and made available for on-demand viewing on the DeKalb County website and on any website of the Commission. The minutes of all Citizen's Environmental Justice Commission shall be promptly prepared and preserved as required by law. Minutes must be made available to the public once they are approved by the DeKalb Environmental Justice Commission or immediately following the next regular meeting whichever comes first.