



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

March 3, 2021

Joseph H. Lumpkin
Deputy Chief Operating Officer/Director of Public Safety, Dekalb County
1960 W. Exchange Place
Tucker, GA 30084

Re: Savannah's Juvenile Reform video

Dear Chief Lumpkin:

Thank you for your interest in sharing your insights regarding recent juvenile reform efforts in Savannah (Chatham County) Georgia.

As you may recall, the Annie E. Casey Foundation was invited to provide technical assistance to the State of Georgia under former Governor Nathan Deal. During this support, a new Juvenile Code was passed and signed into law. At the time, Chatham County was committing a high number of youth to the custody of the state's Department of Juvenile Justice at a cost of more than \$88,000 per youth per year, and the resulting recidivism rates post-incarceration were higher than 65%.

To address this issue, Chatham Juvenile Court judges convened a number of City, County and community leaders to review the data and the research and consider local responses that might be more effective than state placement. At the time, your role as Chief of Police was critical in insuring confidence in the process and your leadership paved the way for a Multi-agency Resource Center (named "The Front Porch" by the youth) to be realized.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation has given a grant to The Deep Center to capture Savannah's reform story in hopes that this will aid in sustaining the progress, and also inspire communities across Georgia to engage in their own reform. Because your voice was an essential piece, we hope that you will be able to share your perspective in this endeavor.

Very truly yours,

Tanya L. Washington

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