



DeKalb County Government

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

Agenda Item

File #: 2025-1107

Substitute

12/9/2025

File Status:

Public Hearing: YES NO

Department: Board of Commissioners - District 6

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): District 6

A Resolution Requesting The Administration Implement A DeKalb County Police Department Community Liaison Program; Require Hate Crimes Identification Training For Law Enforcement; And For Other Purposes.

Information Contact: Commissioner Edward C. "Ted" Terry

Phone Number: 404-371-4909

PURPOSE:

A Resolution Requesting The Administration Implement A DeKalb County Police Department Community Liaison Program; Require Hate Crimes Identification Training For Law Enforcement; And For Other Purposes.

NEED/IMPACT:

The DeKalb County Governing Authority is committed to equality and safety for all DeKalb County residents and visitors. DeKalb County's 2023 Non-Discrimination Ordinance prohibits discrimination in public accommodations based on numerous identities, including race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, disability, familial status, political opinion, sexual orientation, gender identity, and more. DeKalb County is home to many diverse populations, including immigrant, refugee, and historically marginalized communities that often face barriers to accessing justice, such as language access, cultural stigmas, or historical trauma. A community liaison program within the DeKalb County Police Department (DKPD) would strengthen relationships with underserved populations, provide culturally responsive engagement, and reinforce public trust and safety. Georgia Equality's 2023 Equality Progress Report recommended the establishment of a police liaison program and mandatory hate crimes training as key measures to strengthen equitable law enforcement practices and community trust.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Unknown at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the resolution and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute all necessary documents....

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ADMINISTRATION IMPLEMENT A DEKALB COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY LIAISON PROGRAM; REQUIRE HATE CRIMES IDENTIFICATION TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Governing Authority is committed to fostering equity, safety, and justice for all residents and visitors of DeKalb County; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County's 2023 Non-Discrimination Ordinance prohibits discrimination in public accommodations based on numerous identities, including race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, disability, familial status, political opinion, sexual orientation, gender identity, and more; and

WHEREAS, national crime statistics from the FBI's 2023 Crime in the Nation report show that while violent crime decreased overall, hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity increased; and

WHEREAS, the ACLU's 2024 Policing Progress report highlights that LGBTQ+ individuals report disproportionately high levels of victimization and are significantly less likely to report crimes due to a lack of trust in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County is home to many diverse populations, including immigrant, refugee, and historically marginalized communities that often face barriers to accessing justice, such as language access, cultural stigmas, or historical trauma; and

WHEREAS, a community liaison program within the DeKalb County Police Department (DKPD) would strengthen relationships with underserved populations, provide culturally responsive engagement, and reinforce public trust and safety; and

WHEREAS, numerous jurisdictions across Georgia and the nation—including the Cities of Chamblee and Atlanta—have established police liaison roles as a community engagement strategy to foster communication, mutual understanding, and problem-solving; and

WHEREAS, these liaison roles need not be full-time positions, and in many jurisdictions they are incorporated into an officer's existing responsibilities and rotated throughout the year, thereby serving as force multipliers for public safety—not substitutes for patrol or investigative capacity; and

WHEREAS, this approach is especially important in a time when law enforcement agencies across the country, including DeKalb County, face ongoing challenges in recruitment and retention of sworn officers; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Equality's 2023 Equality Progress Report recommended the establishment of a police liaison program and mandatory hate crimes training as key measures to strengthen equitable law enforcement practices and community trust;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners requests the Administration take the following actions:

1. Develop and implement a DeKalb County Police Department Community Liaison Program, with designated officers serving as trusted points of contact between the Police Department and underserved or historically marginalized communities.
2. Designate, hire, or assign officers to serve in these liaison roles, recognizing that these positions may be integrated into officers' broader duties and responsibilities and need not be full-time positions.
3. Coordinate participation in relevant cultural competency, trauma-informed, anti-bias, and hate crimes identification trainings to prepare liaison officers and enhance the department's responsiveness to all communities.
4. Mandate hate crimes identification training for all law enforcement officers and ensure annual compliance with the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) requirements.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, 2025.

MICHELLE LONG SPEARS

Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer, this ____ day of _____, 2025.

LORRAINE COCHRAN-JOHNSON

Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD

County Clerk
Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer

ZACH WILLIAMS

Chief Operating Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

TERRY G. PHILLIPS

Interim County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia