

BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR DEKALB COUNTY REPURPOSING UNSPENT POLICE BUDGET FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND RECRUITMENT INVESTMENTS

WHEREAS, DeKalb County recognizes the urgent need to address violent crime, youth violence and loss of learning in our schools throughout our community; and

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Police Department (DKPD) is dedicated to the safety and well-being of the community at large and has developed programs such as the Police Athletic League (PAL) to support at-risk youth, providing mentorship, recreational opportunities and career development pathways;

WHEREAS, community-based violence prevention programs and youth engagement activities have been proven to reduce violent crime and support struggling schools;

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Police Department is interested in recruiting and retaining high-quality, and highly skilled individuals to start and grow a career at DKPD,

WHEREAS, the continuing education of the DKPD force is vital to improving the quality knowledge of those who swear to serve and protect, including going back to school to obtain additional degrees or certifications that would further their capabilities and effectiveness as peace officers;

WHEREAS, the DKPD provides a \$3,000 salary increase for an recruits or transfers that have an advanced degree related to their job category, however this salary increase does not apply to current officers who complete degree programs while employed;

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Police Department Budget every year has unspent funds designated for vacant police positions; and the use of those funds in past budget years has rolled over into the Police Reserve Fund balance;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioner desires a more timely, dynamic and multi-faceted public safety strategy to help address the dual issues of recruitment, retention, and community engagement and investments to ensure the most comprehensive and holistic approaches to keeping DeKalb neighborhoods safe now and into the future;

Therefore, be it resolved that the DeKalb County budget for the fiscal year 2023 shall include the following provisions:

1. Twenty five percent (25%) of unspent funds designated for vacant police positions within the DeKalb County Police Department shall be repurposed for one-time community-based violence prevention programs and youth engagement activities that have been proven to reduce violent crime and support struggling schools.
2. The funds shall be used exclusively for one-time programs and activities that prioritize community engagement, education, and empowerment, such as after-school programs, mentorship opportunities, comm

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3. unity outreach, and mental health services.
4. The DeKalb County Police Department, through DeKalb PAL shall work in conjunction with community-based organizations, non-profits, and local schools to identify and implement programs that are effective in reducing violent crime, bolstering youth services and addressing loss of learning in our schools.
5. The ERPS Committee shall establish an agenda schedule to oversee the implementation of these programs and monitor their effectiveness in reducing violent crime and supporting youth services and schools.
6. The DeKalb County Police Department shall continue to operate within its allocated budget, with the remaining funds designated for vacant police positions being repurposed towards community-based violence prevention programs and youth engagement activities.
7. The Human Resources Department and Office of Budget and Management shall study the fiscal impact of a salary increase for officers that pursue and complete additional degrees or certifications that are related to their job category withing DKPD, and report back to the Board of Commissioners withing 30 Days;
8. The ERPS Committee shall further study the fiscal impact of salary increases tied to continuing education for consideration in future budget cycles; and make recommendations to the full BOC.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, 2023.

ROBERT PATRICK
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer, this ____ day of _____, 2023.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

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ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BARBARA H. SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC
County Clerk
Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia