

Resolution to Establish an Ad-Hoc Committee on Environmental Justice

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, an Ad-Hoc Committee on Environmental Justice would provide an opportunity to ensure that DeKalb County policies and practices reflect the Justice40 principles and that the County is doing its part to address environmental injustice in the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners establishes an Ad-Hoc Committee on Environmental Justice to operate under the established rules for committees and funding of appropriate staffing of the committee to ensure access to policy capacity and community input.

The Ad-Hoc Committee on Environmental Justice shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Conduct a comprehensive review of the County's policies and practices related to environmental justice and make recommendations for improvements in alignment with the principles of the Justice40 Initiative.
2. Engage with community stakeholders and environmental justice organizations to ensure that the Committee's work reflects the needs and perspectives of impacted communities.
3. Develop and implement strategies to address environmental injustices and promote sustainability in DeKalb County, with a particular focus on communities that have been historically marginalized and polluted.
4. Monitor the progress of DeKalb County's efforts to address environmental justice and make recommendations for ongoing improvements.

The Ad-Hoc Committee on Environmental Justice shall consist of members appointed by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, including representatives from impacted communities, environmental justice organizations, and County staff. The Committee shall operate under the established rules for committees and shall be funded appropriately to ensure access to policy capacity and community input.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners directs the Ad-Hoc Committee on Environmental Justice to follow the principles of the Justice40 Initiative and align its work with the Initiative's goals.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

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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

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