

## RESOLUTION

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA TO THE DEKALB COUNTY DELEGATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR VICTIM ADVOCATE SERVICES IN THE COUNTY JUDICIAL SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Authority of DeKalb County requests that the DeKalb Delegation of the General Assembly support legislation that provides funding for Victim Advocate Services in the County Judicial System; and

**WHEREAS**, DeKalb County's District Attorney's office operates the Victim-Witness Assistance (VWAP) Program, which provides victims with an advocate that offers guidance, support, information, and opportunities for crisis counseling throughout the criminal judicial process; and

**WHEREAS**, Advocates also ensure that crime victims understand their rights, as outlined in the Crime Victims Bill of Rights and State of Georgia law, and assist with obtaining appropriate care, procedural notices, support in obtaining restitution and compensation through the Criminal Justice System, at the expense of local jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, DeKalb County District Attorney's Office rely solely on available Federal grants and local funding to provide adequate representation and support to VWAP participants; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Coronavirus Pandemic has created a backlog of criminal court cases in which all aspects of available resources provided by DeKalb Judicial system, including VWAP, are strained; and therefore, cause victims unnecessary harm through an elongated process, exposing victims to retaliation from perpetrators; and

### **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY GOVERNING AUTHORITY IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA, AS FOLLOW:**

1. The General Assembly to begin providing funding for Victim Advocate programs throughout the State,
2. Creation of a State-wide Victim Advocate Program Database, that identifies the needs of individual jurisdictions
3. General Assembly pass Legislation that designates a yearly minimum funding allocation for local Victim Assistance programs from the State, to keep up with backlog and future needs,
4. State funding should be sufficient enough to support staffing requirements, staffing pay and benefits, the ability to continue providing necessary programs and services and, meet equipment or other facility needs for Victim Advocate Programs

5. The Executive Assistant or his designee deliver a copy of this Resolution to each member of the Georgia General Assembly representing a portion of DeKalb County.

**ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

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**STEPHEN R. BRADSHAW**  
Presiding Officer  
Board of Commissioners  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**APPROVED** by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

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**MICHAEL L. THURMOND**  
Chief Executive Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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**BARBARA NORWOOD-SANDERS, CCC**  
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and  
Chief Executive Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

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**VIVIANE H. ERNSTES**  
County Attorney Chief