# **DeKalb County Government**

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



# Summary

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

9:00 AM

Manuel J. Maloof Auditorium

# **Board of Commissioners**

Comm. Robert Patrick, Presiding Officer, District 1 Comm. Mereda Davis Johnson, Deputy Presiding Officer, District 5

Commissioner Robert Patrick, District 1 Commissioner Jeff Rader, District 2 Commissioner Larry Johnson, District 3 Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, District 4 Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, District 5 Commissioner Edward "Ted" Terry, Super District 6 Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, Super District 7 Administration: Michael Thurmond, CEO, Zachary Williams, Executive Assistant/ Chief Operating Officer, Barbara Sanders-Norwood, County Clerk, Viviane Ernstes, County Attorney

This meeting will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Simultaneous public access to the meeting will be available (1) via live stream on DCTV's webpage, and (2) on DCTVChannel23.TV. Public Comment may be submitted by sending an email no longer than one page to PublicComment@dekalbcountyga.gov which must be received between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Only those emails received during the allotted time may be read aloud and broadcast. Emails received outside of the allotted time will be included in the Public Comments record for the next meeting after the receipt of those emails. The body of your email must include your first and last name, followed by your address. By submitting an email at any time for public comment, you agree to have your name, address, and email broadcast on the teleconference (Zoom) and entered in the record/minutes. Abusive, profane or derogatory language will not be permitted. The Public Comment segment will not exceed 30 minutes and individual emails will be read by the Clerk for no more than 3 minutes each. The County reserves the right, at the County's sole discretion, to (1) add your email to the record/minutes without reading any of it into the broadcast or (2) add your email to the record/minutes and read all or a portion of your email into the broadcast.

## A. INSPIRATIONAL

Pastor William E. Thomas Jr- New Bethel AME Church

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Ted Terry- District 6

## **B. PRESENTATIONS**

COVID-19 Response

## C. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Public Comment may be submitted by sending an email no longer than one page to PublicComment@dekalbcountyga.gov which must be received between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Only those emails received during the allotted time may be read aloud and broadcast. Emails received outside of the allotted time will be included in the Public Comments record for the next meeting after the receipt of those emails. The body of your email must include your first and last name, followed by your address. By submitting an email at any time for public comment, you agree to have your name, address, and email broadcast on the teleconference (Zoom) and entered in the record/minutes. Abusive, profane or derogatory language will not be permitted. The Public Comment segment will not exceed 30 minutes and individual emails will be read by the Clerk for no more than 3 minutes each. The County reserves the right, at the County's sole discretion, to (1) add your email to the record/minutes without reading any of it into the broadcast or (2) add your email to the record/minutes and read all or a portion of your email into the broadcast.

1. Katherine Maddox (No Address)- Good morning, My name is Katherine Maddox. I have worked in Dekalb County for many years, and live two miles from the so-called Atlanta Public Safety Training Center, and have witnessed local officials, following every single affected NPU, including my own, vote against it, overriding of the will of residents by local officials. The Community Stakeholder's meetings are a charade, and is no meeting for community stakeholders at all, but rather a webinar for the Police Department, the Atlanta Police Foundation- from whose Board of Trustees Coca Cola stepped away, following Color of Change's recent study on the ills police foundations inflict on Black and Brown Communities. https://policefoundations.org/- and other yes-men who refuse to question the flaws of the project- ignoring the area's indigenous history, the likelihood of unmarked graves of people who were formerly enslaved, as well as a now infamous flawed environmental study, for which Committee member Lily Politz was fired. The open records request process is a nightmare- has breeched protocol many, many times, with many officials dragging their feet, and failing to honor requests for weeks, and sometimes longer, after they are required to produce them. Commissioner Ted Terry himself can't even get an open records request honored, and he is an elected official. Because of all of this, we already understand that local officials believe they will force this project on us no matter what. What role will you play in this attempt to erode our democracy? As residents, we have chosen to uphold it, and to prioritize our tree canopy during a climate crisis that will determine whether or not your grandchildren get to have a life worth living. How invested are you in a future that they do? You owe it to them, to approve resolution 2022-1953, that will provide for further studies about the land on which the facility is slated to be built, as well as further accountability measures for an ill-conceived project, the efforts of which, have thus far been illegal at best. Residents here want to actually be safe, not to continue living with an illusion

2. Allison Gilli, 2450 Hillside Ave, Decatur, GA 30032- Please approve resolution 2022-1953 to request additional studies and accountability measures around the development of the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center. Thanks,

of safety that has already proven false. No more of this madness. Sincerely,

3. Luke Dorrian, 1871 Ridgewood Drive NE- My name is Luke Dorrian and I am a Dekalb County resident at 1871 Ridgewood Drive NE, under District 2 and Super District 6. I am reaching out today to ask you, the board of commissioners, to approve Ted Terry's resolution for more public accountability of the planned Public Safety Training Center development on Key Road. In following the public communication of this project's development through the CSAC meetings, I strongly believe that developers of this project, the Atlanta Police Foundation, have done all that they could to sidestep accountability for their project. Environmental reports published so far have explicitly been made to omit critical information on land and water pollution in the area, trying to hide the true scope of the impact of this development. A Phase II Environmental Impact Assessment would require that these ignored issues be addressed. The CSAC board cannot be the only mechanism of accountability for this project on behalf of our community as it has not actually promoted community engagement, but rather has worked to manufacture consent for a deeply unpopular project. It is time for the county to step up and speak out for the people that this project will most affect. The people who live around this project had no voice in the deciding body (the Atlanta City Council) who approved this project. You, the board of commissioners, will be the only body so far in this yearlong process to have any say in this development while actually representing the people it would most affect. I hope you make the right decision and call for more accountability for this project. Thank you for your time,

4. Margaret Spalding (No Address)- DeKalb County Commissioners and CEO Micheal Thurmond, Land ownership, development, and use are inextricably linked to quality of life. We will not stand for more remediation and mitigation of high impact, industrial development, landfills, and prison complexes. Together, we are and will continue to say "No. Not here. Not any more.". The legislation to develop the police and fire training facility at the Prison Farm property was passed by Atlanta City Council, however the City fails to meet the requirements of its own legislation or hold APF accountable in myriad and glaring ways. Indeed, from the beginning of this proposal the City has failed to meaningfully engage its own constituents, especially in southeast Atlanta, much less those who will be most impacted – your constituents in southwest DeKalb. We need your help. The former Prison Farm property was designated, like Intrenchment Creek Park, to be the heart of an initiative to protect people and nature in our area – the South River Forest/Park. This is a chance for people here to see sustainable, equitable, and collaborative investment in their lives by COA and DeKalb County. It's an opportunity bigger than any other proposed and symbolizes a last chance to protect the most valuable contiguous green infrastructure left in the area – including riparian forest that's critical to protecting our threatened freshwater resources. If nothing else, the children of southeast Metro Atlanta deserve to witness a larger investment in their communities – for public health, economic development and climate change resilience. It's time for sustainable, equitable land use planning and it must begin with your commitment in solidarity to invest in protecting our last remaining undeveloped land from more of the same. Please approve this legislation as a measure of goodwill towards those who live here. The land must be thoroughly assessed for environmental and cultural imapact at the very least. Learn about the South River Forest concept and take the public input survey at SouthRiverForest.org. Thank you,

5. Brad Beadles (2207 Greystone Way 30032)- Commissioners, My name is Brad, I am a resident of Dekalb County and I am represented by Commissioners Terry and Johnson. This morning I am asking you to approve Resolution 2022-1953 on behalf of the residents of unincorporated Dekalb County, the visitors to the Old Atlanta Prison Farm and the inhabitants of Weelaunee Forest, both non-human and human beings. The Atlanta Police Foundation has not performed adequate studies to determine the impacts of the proposed public safety training center on the site at Key Road. We have seen the Limited Site Investigation (LSI) performed by Terracon that severely limited the scope of the exploratory site assessment. We have witnessed the APF attempt to pass off this LSI as a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (which it is not). We have witnessed APF remove members from the Community Stakeholder Advisory Committee (CSAC) who drew attention to the fraudulent conflation of the LSI and the Phase II ESA. What we do know even without extensive exploratory environmental studies is that this land was the site of forced labor, both at the hands of private individual plantation owners and enslavers and at the hands of the City of Atlanta that practiced convict leasing up until as recently as 1990. We know that this land was home to indigenous peoples such as the Muscogee (Creek) prior to their forced removal and relocation with the Trail of Tears. We can see the historical through-line that connects the violent racism of decades past directly to the continued disinvestment of the present. This is the most clear instance of environmental racism in our community today. Residents in the area, who are predominantly black and brown, often low income, have been left out of the decision making process and their voices have been ignored by the decision makers. They are being forced against their will to suffer the negative impacts of environmental degradation. The proposed plans to clear cut the forest will result in more flooding, reduced water quality, displacement of wildlife and destruction of habitat. If the proposed facility were to be built, the expanded munitions testing will pollute the air, the soil and the water that we completely depend

on for survival. Even if the facility was not to be built, the two existing outdoor firing ranges used by Atlanta police that are situated on Intrenchment Creek, facing directly towards the creek, would continue to pollute the forest and the near-constant barrage of gunfire would continue to terrorize neighborhood residents and people who are being incarcerated in nearby facilities like the Metro Detention Center for children incarcerated by the state. I want to make it clear that I do not support building the proposed public safety training center at the site of the Old Atlanta Prison Farm or anywhere else. No one should have to be subjected to such clear harmful violations of our environment and our neighborhoods. I support the resolution 2022-1953 because I feel that in order to learn from the harms of the past, we must first understand the extent of the harm before we can begin to heal. I view the "construction" of the proposed training facility as an attempt by the city and the county to cover up the racial and environmental injustices of the past, a clear attempt at erasure of the brutally violent history of racial capitalism and on-going settler colonialism. It is for this reason that it is imperative that the resolution must be approved. It is for this reason that the Board of Commissioners must not grant the land disturbance permit nor the construction permits to the Atlanta Police Foundation.

6. Kathleen O'Conner (No Address)- Thank you for receiving my email and offering it as a comment during your meeting. I am emailing to ask that you please approve resolution 2022-1953 and ask Dekalb CEO Michael Thurmond to request additional studies and accountability measures around the development of the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center. I am a concerned citizen living in Dekalb county, who has learned about the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center in the past year. I am extremely concerned about its impacts on the environment, both local and global, and its impact on our community in metro Atlanta. I believe more studies are needed before construction moves forward so that we know what kind of impact the Center will have on metro Atlanta residents. We also needed additional accountability because Atlanta metro residents spoke up in the summer of 2020 on the impact of policing on our communities, and I believe we were not truly heard. The Atlanta Public Safety Training Center has not been an appropriate response to our concerns as residents so I urge you to further look into accountability measures before furthering construction. The Atlanta Public Safety Training Center is being built in the largest urban forest in the continental United States and will have a detrimental effect on global temperatures and on local populations of birds and amphibians. Additionally, metro Atlanta currently suffers from levels of heavy metal contamination from current police firing ranges located near rivers. Introducing more firing ranges into an area that provides clean drinking water for residents will increase the levels of heavy metal contamination from stray bullets and may poison residents. The Dekalb CEO must request additional studies on the impact of heavy metals contamination in our drinking water due to an increased number of bullets from firing ranges, which will be built in Weelaunee forest. Thank you for your consideration. Best wishes,

7. Joe Santifer (No Address)- Dear Honorable Commissioners: I live less than a mile from the planned Atlanta Police Training Center. Some members of both the supporters, and opponents of the planned police training center on Key Rd. want to make it seem that the controversy around the facility has to do with the issues of crime, or the way that the police do their job. This is demonstrably false. There was no controversy when the APD moved the training center to 180 Southside Industrial Pkwy where they remained for 29 years. There was no controversy when the APD moved their training center to Atlanta Metropolitan State College last summer. The controversy around the center stems from three things: 1. The location 2. The size 3. The lack of engagement and transparency around the plans and development This is why the resolution 2022-1953 must be passed. If the City Council of Atlanta lacks the will or desire to conduct actual due diligence on this massive

project, we pray that Dekalb County will step up. At least for the sake of its citizens like my family and neighbors who have no representation in Atlanta City Council but will be most affected by this facility. Thank you for your time, attention and hard work on behalf of our County

8. David Tyberg, 712 Blake Ave SE 30316- My name is David Tyberg. I am a resident of Atlanta-in-Dekalb and I request that the Dekalb County Commissioners approve resolution 2022-1953 that asks DeKalb CEO Michael Thurmond to request additional studies and accountability measures around the development of the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center. I speak for many of my neighbors when I say that we have grave concerns about the repercussions of building the training center, including both the environmental impact of razing the Old Atlanta Forest to the ground and the public safety concerns of allowing APD and APF to build their urban combat training facility when they have a proven record of excessive violence. I regularly bicycle on the South River Trail and watching both the destruction of the forest and the increased runoff on the trail has been horrifying. Additionally, the Old Atlanta Forest is vital to maintaining air quality throughout the region. Time and again the citizens of Atlanta and Dekalb have spoken out almost unanimously against this project. We demand that you at least conduct thorough studies and take measures to ensure accountability and transparency. If you think this development benefits your constituents, the least you can do is openly stand by your actions instead of trying to sneak them past the public outcry that has been sustained over these many months. Most sincerely,

9. Kay Heffernan 1617 Columbia Cir 30032 - To the Dekalb Commissioners, Please approve resolution 2022-1953 to demand accountability around and further studies to oversee the development of Atlanta Public Safety Training Center. Training center development has been obscured and moved forward without the additional requisite environmental studies including noise control and erosion maintenance. I urge Dekalb CEO Michael Thurmond to halt the training center land development until these studies are completed and shared with the public for review, public comment, and public approval. Thank you,

10. Ed Williams (No Address)- Good Morning Commissioners; I am a resident of DeKalb County and the chair of the Concerned Citizens for Effective Government. The Charter Review Commission has a particular duty to comply with the Open Meetings Act. Under Home Rule, it is the county governing authority that has the authority to adopt ordinances or resolutions and exercise authorization not expressly granted by the General Assembly. It was not in the power of the CEO to create such a commission without the vote of the commission. There is no authority under the 1978 Local Constitutional Amendment for the CEO of the 1981 charter for the CEO to unilateral creates a charter review commission without a vote of the county governing authority, General Assembly, or a referendum of the citizens of DeKalb County. The CEO is not a King. Nowhere in the County Organization Act does it grant the CEO the authority to create a Charter Review Commission, or the power to exercise executive orders. This BOC should make sure that the Charter Review Commission has a website that is updated daily and has an email address to send correspondence to the commission. The Charter Review Commission should be independent of the CEO and he should not be directing its activities and agenda once the members and the commission have been established. Many of the documents are not being updated, such as the Bylaws, summary minutes, and commission members. The Charter Review Commission should be open, to the public, transparent and accessible to the public to make comments and hold public forums. The public must be given proper notice before votes are taken regarding

items the charter commission is voting on. I requested the CEO to provide a record of the authority had to create a charter review commission and make appointments and have not been provided any documents, and I continue to have concerns about 3 of the current members and their conflict of interests. I do not believe that the current DeKalb County School Board Chair who is a constitutional officer should be a voting member of the county charter review commission. The county school board is supposed to be completely independent and separate from the operations of the county government. In addition, I am concerned about having sitting members of the General Assembly on the charter review commission that will be at some point required to vote on any recommendations made by the charter commission. It is a conflict of interest for a General Assembly member to serve as a voting member of a county charter review commission. The Georgia Constitution prohibits elected officials from serving in two positions, and certainly in positions in which they are supposed to be independent of, and should not have any control or legislative power over. I noticed that the CEO's executive order did not cite a single legal authority in his creation of the county charter review commission. There was local legislation being considered in the General Assembly in 2017 but did not become law. The CEO seemed to have copied some of the languages from the proposed legislation SB 246 and used it in his executive order. I noticed that the executive order was not signed by anyone in the law department. It should be noted that the legislation only proposed a commission of 13 members, not the 17 that the CEO created. I think the Charter Review Commission should first review those charter sections that would be applicable no matter the form of government DeKalb ultimately has first. I strongly believe that the charter commission also put on its agenda to review the form of government in terms of a chairman of the commission instead of a CEO. I do not see the benefit of DeKalb continuing to maintain the CEO form of government. It is the only county of the 159 counties in Georgia with a CEO and we have nothing to show for it. We have one of the highest sales taxes in the state, and inadequate transit services although we have been a part of MARTA for more than fifty years, and property taxes have increased more than thirty percent even though we have SPLOST and are the only county in Georgia with an E-HOST that is supposed to reduce our property taxes. Citizens passed a SPLOST a few years ago and we still have bad roads and potholes all over the place. The quality of the road pavement is suspect and not many roads have been paved. What has happened? It is the BOC that is supposed to perform oversight and represent the citizens, not carry the CEO's water. Thank You

11. Stephen Binney (No Address)- Good Morning Commissioners, I want to start by thanking Ms Davis Johnson for taking me behind the woodshed two weeks ago. It brought back fond memories of my mother. It was an honor to be berated by you. However, there is a small problem. My facts are accurate and maybe your memories are a little hazy. There is a video and a written record, on public file, of you saying that \$31,200 dollars is a lot of money in that committee meeting. You make over \$60,000 dollars a year working as a county commissioner. You must be living high on the hog my lady. When Mr Terry suggested raising the wages of Dekalb County's senior employees to be more in line with the \$15 an hour current minimum, your response suggested that you were not immediately in support of this idea and stated that it was something that might be discussed later. If you care about the employees of Dekalb County who work so hard to make this county the best it can be I believe that decision is a no brainer. You, apparently do not. I commend you for paying your interns \$20 per hour. They deserve it and are hard workers. Are not Dekalb County employees hard workers and do they not deserve a livable wage also, or should we just let them eat cake? Perhaps you have been on the commission too long. Each month you continue to sound more and more like a politician and less like the representative of the people you are supposed to serve. More like a Reagan democrat than an active agent for change, working to make the world a better place for all of us. On April 9th, of this year, an 11 year old boy

was shot in the head by a 13 year old at Golden Glide Skating. A business that didn't even have a valid business license to be open. When this was discovered was Golden Glide punished? No they were not. Why? Is this how Dekalb County plans to bring businesses into Dekalb County? By not making them pay license fees. Apparently only one business in Dekalb has been closed for lack of a license in the last 3 and a half years. According to officials, our business license department, like our code department, is a compliance division and not a enforcement division. At the end of 2021 Dekalb County had 4,008 licensed businesses. By this year's deadline to pay fees that number had dropped by nearly 700. Are they out of business? Did they move? Are they operating without a license? Does the county even know and more importantly do they even care? Are businesses leaving Dekalb County or is part of our enticement plan to bring businesses to Dekalb by telling them they don't need a license to operate here. Maybe if we collected all of our business license fees we could afford to pay our employees a little more money Mereda. Thank you for your time and consideration,

12. Bradley Cooke (No Address)- My name is Bradley Cooke, I am a constituent of yours living in Dekalb county. I am a neuropsychologist, and earned my professional degrees from the University of California Berkeley. I worked as a Professor of Neuroscience and Psychology at Georgia State University for nearly a decade, and now I serve the public as a neuroscientist for the federal government. As such, I have considerable professional expertise in the areas of psychology and psychiatry. The purpose of my message to you this morning is to advocate for the legislative decriminalization of psychedelic drugs, including psilocybin, LSD, and other related chemicals. As a neuropsychologist interested in these issues, I have surveyed the scientific literature on the safety and efficacy of psychedelic drugs to relieve suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, mood disorders, end-of-life anxiety, and addiction. Many studies have been conducted and are underway to assess these substances' value to psychiatry. The overall picture is quite promising - For example, a report in the New England Journal of Medicine of a double-blind placebo controlled trial indicates that a single 4-5 hour experience has a comparable effect on depression as 4 months of using conventional antidepressants such as Zoloft or Prozac. These drugs' ability to quickly relieve depression, anxiety, and PTSD seems to work best when administered by an experienced practitioner in a psychotherapist's office. Early results are promising, but the science is not yet settled: We need more data from more trials to establish whether they are truly effective. Many are rightly concerned about safety. The bottom line is this: These drugs are very safe - there is no known lethal dose for any of the psychedelics: It is practically impossible to overdose on any of them. Secondly, they are non-habit forming: People do not become addicted to psychedelic drugs. Moreover, unlike alcohol, the use of psychedelic drugs diminishes the probability of interpersonal violence and domestic abuse. Obviously, no one should be permitted to drive when using these drugs, and we have laws to dissuade citizens from doing that. Decriminalization would not diminish the penalties for driving under the influence. Instead, decriminalization would allow citizens to safely possess and use these substances in their homes or with psychotherapists without fear of sanction by law enforcement. I know that there are many Dekalb residents who would benefit from these substances, but they are unable to use them for fear of incrimination. Thus, I urge you to consider decriminalization of psychedelic drugs, which would benefit the people of Dekalb county suffering from mood disorders and PTSD. A video that provides more information about psychedelic drugs and their effects on the brain can be found at my YouTube channel, which can be found via my name or at this link: https://youtu.be/89JOVSC4Afk?list=PLPy 7BaoqVYCM1zOt5 cAB1YeJ55Nr7jr I would be delighted to talk to any of you at any time or to answer written or verbal questions. Please just send me an email and we can set up a time. Thank you very much for your time and consideration. Sincerely,

13. Lance Hammonds (No Address)- Good morning Commissioners, my name is Lance Hammonds, I Chair the Rockbridge Coalition with approximately 9000 households and I am the President of the NAACP DeKalb County Branch, I am here today to comment on the Mandatory video Surveillance ordinance at convenience stores and small box stores. The Rockbridge Coalition and the NAACP DeKalb is in full support of this ordinance because it is a step in making our community safer. The residence I speak with are concerned about their safety. We must restore the perception and feeling that our community is safe. To do this we need to continue to pursue out of the box solutions like this ordinance. As citizens, we recognize that the Board of Commissioners and our law enforcement agencies cannot do this by yourselves. Be assured we are with you and prepared to do our part. Please let us know specifically what we can do to make the community safer. I would encourage the entire Board of Commissioners to support this ordinance. Best regards,

14. Ed Williams (No Address)- Good Morning Commissioners, My Name is Ed Williams, I have lived in unincorporated south DeKalb for over twenty years. I am the chair of the group Concerned Citizens for Effective Government. In 1971 the citizens in DeKalb and Fulton counties voted to levy a tax for 50 years. The reality is that most of the citizens in this room and in the metropolitan areas living in DeKalb and Fulton counties have not had an opportunity to vote on any MARTA service contract. I was only 7 years old then, and I have never had a chance to vote on any MARTA projects. In 1971 there were more residents living in the Atlanta city limits than in the DeKalb and Fulton counties rural areas. In 2022, the population of DeKalb and Fulton counties has increased by almost 1 million citizens and we should have another referendum for transit services and a new list of projects after 50 years. It is past time. The Commission and CEO should demand that a new service contract be voted on by the citizens of DeKalb County. What kind of law department does DeKalb County have that allows its citizens to be taken advantage of and our rights to be violated by MARTA? MARTA in its April 7, 2022 motion for legal fees claims asserts that I must be held accountable for the attorneys' fees and costs for exercising my right to petition the government through the courts while using peaceful means even though I have not exhausted my appeals and MARTA has not shown that I have acted in bad faith. I will not surrender my rights. My Complaint seeks to do two things: (1) to prevent MARTA from illegally continuing to "extend" the RTCAA beyond August 31, 2021; (2) to prevent MARTA from illegally continuing to levy a sales tax beyond August 31, 2021, without a new referendum. MARTA is spending taxpayer funds to deny citizens an opportunity to vote on whether a sales tax should be continued to be levied and the kinds of transit services projects they want to fund. MARTA seeks to prevent me from exercising my First Amendment right "to petition the Government for a redress of grievances". This right is at the heart of our democracy and the first and arguably the most important right. The government should not be able to use taxpayer money to deny citizens the right to petition their government and to intimidate and retaliate against citizens from seeking justice. Citizens in Georgia have a right to seek justice, equity, due process, and equal justice in a court of law. Thank You

15. Stacey M. Armstrong, 2658 Woodfen Drive 30294- Hello, I'm in opposition to resolution introduced by Commissioner Ted Terry. I'm in favor of the building of Atlanta Public Safety training center.

16. Stephen Binney (No Address)- Good Morning Commissioners, I want to do something this morning that I know no other commissioner will do. I want to apologize to Ms Sydney Clark for what this commission allowed Larry Johnson to do to you two weeks ago. Ms Clark you have nothing to apologize for. You fought for the residents of Forest at Columbia. You went through proper channels, got no response and upped the

ante until you got the help you needed. Apparently Sydney your personal apology to Larry was not sufficient. Nor was your apology in the newspaper. Commissioner Larry Johnson invited you into a commission meeting to give an apology that sounded more like a hostage statement. I understand why you did what you did. It was for the greater good of all the residents of Forest at Columbia. What I do not understand is why Larry invited you to read a statement, that borders on blackmail, in order to get the help all Dekalb County citizens deserve in this age of dwindling affordable housing. Ms Clark, you showed great courage, compassion, and character. Larry was just being Larry I guess. Mr Terry, I believe you were correct with your point of order objection over this. This item was not added to the agenda and should not have been allowed to be heard. But you Presiding Officer Robert Patrick have just as much fault in this as Commissioner Johnson. Violating the Dekalb County Organization Act just to do a favor for a friend who voted for you. Your behavior during this fiasco says a lot about your character and where your loyalties lie. The owners of the property, Meridian sent out eviction notices in late June telling residents their water and other utilities would be cut off if they did not leave by August 31st. Under Georgia law it appears the property owner's actions are indeed illegal. The apartments at Forest currently rent at about \$900 a month. Meridian's plan was to force the residents out, renovate the apartments, which indeed do need work, and then rent them out at \$1700 a month. Does that sound like affordable housing to you? Lead by Ms Clark, at least 25 Forest at Columbia residents formed an advocacy group to fight back against the move, which organizers say is an attempt to gentrify their majority-Black, low-income community. They called Commissioner Johnson's office who didn't respond to their multiple calls and emails. Then about 30 residents and advocates took their case to the DeKalb County Commissioner's office for a rally in Decatur. Still no response. Frustrated, they took to yelling at Larry in front of a crowd of concert goers and embarrassed him in front of his constituents and others. Guess that got your attention, huh Larry? Larry Johnson, part of your job includes representing the needs of your constituents and helping them navigate the bureaucracy. Ms Sydney Clark you have nothing to be ashamed of. Ms Clark you are a hero. Next time you need help I suggest you try Commissioner Cochran-Johnson from district 7. I have heard she is a little more responsive to residents needs. Thank you for your time and consideration,

## D. 10:00 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING

The DeKalb County Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing during its Regular Business meeting on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. This meeting will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Simultaneous public access to the meeting will be available (1) via live stream on DCTV's webpage, and (2) DCTVChannel23.TV. The public is invited to watch the broadcast on DCTV's UStream link (https://video.ibm.com/channel/dctv-channel-23), or join the meeting using the Zoom link (https://dekalbcountyga.zoom.us/j/7753778046), or by telephone (602-333-0032 or 888-270-9936, conference code: 217687). For those joining the meeting by telephone, please be aware that your phone number may be displayed to the public viewing or participating in the online meeting. The Board will provide 15 minutes of time for citizens to speak in favor of an agenda item, and 15 minutes for citizens to speak in opposition. Citizens who attend the meeting via the Zoom link above may join the public comment queue by raising their hand in the Zoom application, while citizens who attend the meeting via telephone may join the comment queue by pressing # followed by 2. There will be no comment cards, so when you are called upon, please state your name and address for the record. Also, please be conscious of speaking time so that everyone has an opportunity to provide input in the allotted time. Citizens may also email documents for inclusion into the official record by submitting such materials by 9:00 a.m. on the date of the public hearing to PublicHearing@dekalbcountyga.gov.

#### **Public Works - Transportation**

#### 2022-1955

#### **Commission District(s):** 4 & 7

Traffic Calming Petition - Blantyre Blvd between Malvern Blvd and Cul-De-Sac. No Cost to County.

#### Approved

## **E. APPEALS**

NONE

#### F. APPOINTMENTS

#### **Chief Executive Office**

#### 2022-1939

#### **Commission District(s):** All

Appointment to the DeKalb County Historic Preservation Commission - Dr.

Pamela Scully

#### Approved

## ITEMS FOR RECORDING IN THE MINUTES

#### **Board of Commissioners - District 1**

## 2022-2020

## Commission District(s): District 1

Recording of the Appointment of Will Childs to the Airport Advisory Board

#### Deferred to the next meeting, until September 13, 2022

## G. CONSENT AGENDA

#### Airport

#### 2022-1964

#### Commission District(s): 1 and 6

Standardized T-Hangar Lease Agreement with Stephen Ratchford. There is no cost to the County.

## Approved

#### **Board of Commissioners**

2022-2041

#### **Commission District(s):** All

Approval of Minutes for the August 16, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting

## Approved

#### **Board of Commissioners - District 4**

#### 2022-2023

## Commission District(s): District 4

Allocation (not to exceed) \$60,000.00 of District 4 2022 reserved for allocation funds to DeKalb County Accountability Courts: Drug Court (DCDC), DeKalb County Felony Mental Health Court (DCFMHC), and the DeKalb County Veterans Treatment Court (DCVTC) and DUI Courts for the purpose of supporting treatment, mental health, parent, and veteran court programs services and resources.

## 2022-2026

**Commission District(s):** District 4

Allocation of District 4 SPLOST Funding for South Fork Peachtree Creek Trail Concept Plan and Design Segment 2.

## Approved

#### **Board of Commissioners - District 5**

#### 2022-2051

#### Commission District(s): District 5

An item to allocate \$50,000 of the American Rescue Plan Funds Assigned to POETA Account 105744.63258.52109.01.05.602479 Reserved For District 5 Appropriation To The 100 Black Men of DeKalb County To Provide Needed Services Emergency Created By The COVID-19 Pandemic

## Approved

#### 2022-2061

#### Commission District(s): District 5

An item to allocate \$25,000 of the American Rescue Plan Funds Assigned to POETA Account 105744.63258.52109.01.05.602479 Reserved For District 5 Appropriation To The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) To Provide Needed Services Emergency Created By The COVID-19 Pandemic

## Approved

#### **District Attorney**

#### <u>2022-2037</u>

#### **Commission District(s):** all

Acceptance of 2023 Child Support Contract Between the State of Georgia and the Office of the District Attorney

## <u>2022-2038</u>

**Commission District(s):** all

Acceptance of DeKalb County's allocation of \$303,670, no required match, under the 2022 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

## Approved

#### Human Services

#### 2022-2031

#### Commission District(s): All

Domestic Violence Intervention & Advocacy Contract between DeKalb County, Georgia and Women Moving On, Inc- Transfer funds from the Victim Assistance Fund to the Grant Fund for a State-Certified Assistance Agency- at a Cost to the County of \$150,000

## Approved

#### 2022-2034

#### **Commission District(s):** All

Acceptance of an Additional \$238,785.90 in CARES Act Funds form the Atlanta Regional Commission for the Provision of Congregate Meals to Seniors during the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic-At No Cost to the County

## Approved

## **Police Services**

#### 2022-2019

#### **Commission District(s):** All

Addition to Authorized Fleet Using Federal Seizure Funds

## Approved

#### **Public Works - Transportation**

## <u>2022-2059</u>

Commission District(s): Commission District 2

District 2 Capital Account Appropriation for South Fork Peachtree Creek Trail

Concept Plan and Design for North DeKalb Mall Segments 1 and 3

## Approved

## H. PRELIMINARY ITEMS

**Board of Commissioners - District 6** 

## 2022-2060

#### **Commission District(s):** All Commission Districts

A Resolution Supporting the Creation of a Task Force to Honor the Life of Reverend Dr. Hosea Lorenzo Williams, Sr., and Recognizing His Accomplishments as Worth of an Enduring Memorial

Deferred for 30 days and assigned to the Planning, Economic Development & Community Services Committee (PECS), and return to the Board on September 27, 2022

#### **Purchasing & Contracting**

#### Purchasing & Contracting - to ERPS Committee

2022-1856

#### **Commission District(s): ALL**

SWC - Statewide Contract for Public Safety Two-Way Radios: for use by the Marshal's Office. Consists of purchasing off the Statewide Contract (SWC) No. 99999-SPD-NVPWA06913-0004 for the purchase of Motorola APX 6500 Portable Radios. Awarded to: Motorola Solutions, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$16,559.89

## 2022-1933 Commission District(s): All

LB - Invitation No. 21-101364 High Visibility Reflective Safety Apparel (Three (3) Year Multiyear Contract): for use by the Departments of Watershed Management (DWM), Public Works - Roads and Drainage (R&D), Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (RPCA), Beautification, and Sanitation. Consists of providing high visibility reflective safety apparel to the County. Recommend award to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidders: E.R. Partridge, Inc., Dana Safety Supply, Inc., and Safety Products, Inc. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$2,340,000.00

## Approved

## 2022-1967 Commission District(s): ALL

RA - Ratification of Purchase Order (PO) Nos.: 1297824, 1297822, 1295510, 1295509, 1293503, 1291702, 1291684, 1290587, 1290584, 1285478 for
Emergency Security Guard Services: for use by the Department of Police Services. Consists of providing security guard services for various COVID-19 related events including guard services at the Brookhaven MARTA Station. Recommend approval to ratify the purchase with Bryant Safety and Security Solutions, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$100,286.87.

## Approved

## 2022-2018 Commission District(s): All

REN - Batteries For Two-Way Radios (Annual Contract - 1st Renewal of 2 Options To Renew): Contract Nos.: 1263031 and 1264032 for use by the Departments of Public Safety Police Services (PS) and Fire Rescue. These contracts consist of providing Batteries for Two-Way Radios. Awarded to: Motorola Solutions and Two-Way Direct, Inc. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$81,000.00.

## Approved

Purchasing & Contracting - to OPS Committee

## 2022-1829 Commission District(s): ALL

CO - Change Order No. 4 to Contract Nos.: 1213631, 1213634, and 1213635 for Commercial Janitorial Services (Multiyear Contract): for use by the Department of Facilities Management. These contracts consist of the development, management and monitoring of high quality commercial janitorial/cleaning/custodial services and Day Porters at various County facilities. Awarded to: Building Maintenance Services (BMS), Cleanstar National, Inc. and A-Action Janitorial Services. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$4,784,369.29.

## Deferred to the next meeting, until September 13, 2022

#### 2022-1853 Commission District(s): ALL

CA - Kronos Technical Software and Equipment Support Services: for use by the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT). Consists of piggybacking off the competitively let OMNIA Partners Contract No. 18220 for the renewal of the software, hardware, support, and maintenance of Kronos equipment. Awarded to Kronos, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$184,810.02.

## Approved

#### 2022-1931 Commission District(s): ALL

REN - Fence Installation and Repairs (Annual Contract -1st Renewal of 2 Options to Renew): Contract No.: 1264098 for use by Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs (RPCA) & Facilities Management (FM). This contract consists of the purchase, repair, and installation of a variety of fencing needed throughout the County. Awarded to Executive Realty Solutions, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$265,000.00.

#### 2022-1975 Commission District(s): 2

RA - Ratification for Carpet Replacement at Judicial Tower -Water Damage (Emergency): for use by the Department of Facilities Management (FM). Purchase Orders (POs) 1299205, 1299271, 1299272, 1299274 and 1299275 were issued as emergency purchase requests. Consists of the replacement of carpet in various areas of the Judicial Tower due to water damage. Recommend approval to ratify the emergency purchase with Rabern-Nash Company, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$100,510.00.

#### Approved

## 2022-1999 Commission District(s): All

CO - Change Order No. 4 to Contract No. 1081988 for Professional Services for the Implementation of Oracle Hyperion Planning and Budgeting Cloud Services for Public Sector: for the Department of Innovation and Technology (IT) for use by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). This contract consists of providing services that streamline the budget preparation process and enhance the County's ability to track and manage budgets in real-time. Awarded to Deloitte Consulting, LLP. Amount Not To Exceed: \$100,000.00.

## Approved

#### 2022-2012 Commission District(s): ALL

CO - Change Order No. 6 to Contract No. 1147259 for Elevator Maintenance Services: for use by Facilities Management (FM). This contract consists of monthly preventative maintenance, inspections, testing and modernization of the County's elevators and associated equipment. Awarded to: KONE, Inc. (OMNIA Partners Cooperative Agreement). Amount Not To Exceed: \$600,919.35.

## Approved

Purchasing & Contracting - to PECS Committee

## **2022-1887** Commission District(s): 2, 3, 4, 6, 7

CA - Cooperative Agreement for Playground Systems, Installation, Service and Related Items: for use by the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs (RPCA). This contract consists of upgrades and renovations for Parks, Playgrounds, and Recreational Areas. Awarded to: BCI Burke Company LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$968,176.84.

## Approved

#### 2022-1901 Commission District(s): ALL

CO - Change Order No. 3 to Contract Nos.: 1174317, 1174318, 1174320, and 1174324 for Architecture and Engineering Services for Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (RPCA) (Annual Contract - 2nd Renewal of 2 Options to Renew) for use by the Department of RPCA. Awarded to: Lose & Associates *dba* Lose Design, Pond & Company, Inc., Foresite Group, Inc. and Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$1,850,000.00. Approved

#### 2022-1937 Commission District(s): 3 and 6

RA - Ratification of property at 2055 Bouldercrest Road (Michele Obama Park) -Erosion Issues and Property Protection Rider (Emergency): for use by Recreation Parks and Culture Affairs (RPCA). Purchase Order (PO) 1297476 has been issued in the amount of \$189,381.00 as emergency purchase request. Consists of the removal and re-installation of silt fencing to stabilize slope erosion issues and runoff onto neighboring properties. An additional \$14,278.00 is being requested for future purchase of a property/equipment protection rider to contractor's insurance policy. Recommend approval to ratify this emergency purchase with EFS, Inc. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$203,659.00.

#### Approved

Purchasing & Contracting - to PWI Committee

## 2022-1550 Commission District(s): All

LB- Invitation No. 22-101512 Steel Bottoms & Tops Lids (Annual Contract with Two Options to Renew): for the use by Public Works - Sanitation. Consists of purchasing steel bottoms and top lids for commercial containers at various locations within the County. Recommend award to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder: Wastequip Manufacturing Company, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$200,000.00

#### Approved

#### 2022-1551 Commission District(s): All

LB - Invitation No. 22-101513 Commercial Containers, Commercial Container Lids, Commercial Recycle Containers and Roll-Off Containers (Annual Contract with Two Options to Renew): for the use by Public Works - Sanitation. Consist of supplying commercial containers for the roll-off and commercial services. Recommend award to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder: Wastequip Manufacturing Company, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$500,000.00.

#### Approved

#### 2022-1781 Commission District(s): All

CO - Change Order No. 3 to Contract No. 1233446 for Environmental Monitoring and Gas Collection and Control System (GCCS) Operations and Maintenance Services (Multi-year Contract): for use by the Department of Public Works -Sanitation. Consists of providing environmental monitoring services and GCCS, operations and maintenance services related to municipal solid waste at the DeKalb County Seminole Road Landfill. Awarded to Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. Amount Not to Exceed: \$50,000.00.

#### 2022-1812 Commission District(s): All

LB - Invitation No. 22-101493 Chlorine Gas, Sodium Hydroxide, Sodium Hypochlorite and Sodium Bicarbonate (Three (3) Year Multiyear Contract): for use by the Department of Watershed Management (DWM). Consists of providing chemicals to treat drinking water for DeKalb County residents. Recommend award to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder: Brentagg Mid-South Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$5,321,808.00

# Deferred and assigned to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee (PWI), and return to the Board on September 13, 2022

## 2022-1905

#### **Commission District(s): All**

REN - Guardrail Repair and Installation (1st Renewal - Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew): Contract Nos. 1266958 and 1269771: for use by Public Works - Roads and Drainage (R&D). These contracts consist of providing repair and installation of guardrails within various areas of the County. Awarded to Stembridge Custom Metals, Inc. and Gracie Gray Contractors, Inc. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$360,000.00.

## Approved

2022-2010

## Commission District(s): ALL

RA-Ratification to PO#1298875-350 HP Crawler Dozer with Warranty: for use by Public Works-Fleet Management to be used by Public Works-Sanitation. Consists of piggybacking off the competitively let Sourcewell Cooperative Agreement No. 032119-JDC to purchase two (2) 350 hp crawler dozers with warranties to move collected refuse on the working face of the landfill. Recommend approval to ratify the purchase with Flint Equipment Co. Amount Not To Exceed: \$1,657,202.00.

## Approved

#### Watershed Management

2022-1969	
	Commission District(s): 3 & 6
	Agreement for the Construction and Financing of Sewer Upgrades with Aurora
	Senior I, LP Not to Exceed \$72,500.
	Approved
2022-1970	
	Commission District(s): 3 & 6
	Agreement for the Construction and Financing of Sewer Upgrades with Fullerton Family I, LP
	Not to Exceed \$222,500. Approved
<u>2022-1971</u>	
2022-1971	<b>Commission District(s):</b> 4 & 7
	Agreement for the Construction and Financing of Sewer Upgrades with
	Prudential Overall Supply Not to Exceed \$123,000
	Approved
2022-1972	
	Commission District(s): 2 & 6
	Agreement for the Construction and Financing of Sewer Upgrades with NR East
	Decatur Property Owner LLC, Not to Exceed \$401,500
	Approved
I. ITEMS FOR DECIS	ION BY THE BOARD
<b>Board of Commissioners</b>	- District 1
<u>2021-2851</u>	
	Commission District(s): All
	A Request to Consider Establishing an Annual Traffic Count Program

# Deferred for 30 days, until September 27, 2022

**Board of Commissioners - District 3** 

2022-2022		
	Commission District(s): District 3	
	The VOTE (Voting Opportunity and Translation Equity) Ordinance	
	Deferred to the next meeting, until September 13, 2022	
Board of Commissioners - District 6		
<u>2022-1656</u>		
	Commission District(s): All Commission Districts	
	To Amend the Code of DeKalb County, Georgia, As Revised 1988, Chapter 20,	
	Article VIII, to Recognize General Election Day as a Paid County Holiday.	
	Deferred to the next meeting, until September 13, 2022	
<u>2022-1953</u>		
	Commission District(s): All Districts	
	Approve a Resolution to ask the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County to	
	Request A Phase II Environmental Site Assessment and a Noise Study for the	
	Atlanta Public Safety Training Center Development Proposal.	
	Deferred for 30 days, until September 27, 2022	
2022-2004		
	Commission District(s): All Commission Districts	
	A Resolution to Protect Abortion Access and Protect Reproductive Health,	
	Rights, and Justice for DeKalb County Citizens	
	Deferred for 30 days, until September 27, 2022	
Board of Commissioners -	District 7	

## 2022-1299

#### **Commission District(s):** District 7

A Resolution Requesting The Governing Authority Of DeKalb County Amend Chapter 15 Of The Code Of DeKalb County, Georgia As Revised 1988; To Provide For The Mandatory Used Of Video Surveillance Systems at Convenience Stores, And For Other Purposes

## Deferred for 30 days, until September 27, 2022

## 2022-1765

#### Commission District(s): District 7

A Resolution of the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia to Acknowledge an Affordable Housing Crisis in DeKalb County and to Call upon Federal, State and Local Legislators and Elected Officials to Pass Legislation Supporting Home Ownership and Rent Stabilization. **Deferred for 30 days, until September 27, 2022** 

#### Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and CEO

#### 2022-1973

#### **Commission District(s):** All

Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Meeting of July 26, 2022

## Deferred to the next meeting, until September13, 2022

## Purchasing & Contracting

#### Purchasing & Contracting - to FAB Committee

#### 2022-1845 Commission District(s): ALL

CO - Change Order No. 1 to Contract No. 1092093 for Auditing Services (Multiyear Contract): for use by the Department of Finance. This contract consists of auditing services of the County's financial statements. Awarded to Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$29,500.00.

Purchasing & Contracting - to OPS Committee

#### 2022-1826 Commission District(s): All

CO - Change Order No. 1 to Contract No.: 1116360 for Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Program Management Services: for use by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This contract consists of providing program management services for projects funded by SPLOST. Awarded to Atlas Technical Consultants LLC. Inc., for an Amount Not to Exceed: \$2,764,502.36.

## Deferred to the next meeting, until September 13, 2022

Purchasing & Contracting - to PWI Committee

## 2022-1852 Commission District(s): All

CO - Change Order No. 5 to Contract Nos.: 1115899 and 1118591 and for Asphaltic Concrete Pavement Repairs (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew): for use by the Public Works - Roads and Drainage (R&D) and Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Affairs (RPCA). These contracts consist of completing paving repairs. Awarded to A&S Paving, Inc., and Greenway One, Inc. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$1,900,000.00.

## **Approved the substitute**

## 2022-1863 Commission District(s): All

ITB No. 22-101492 Tree Cutting and Removal Services (Three (3) Year Multiyear Contract): for use by Departments of Watershed Management (DWM), Facilities Management (FM), Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs (RPCA), Public Works - Beautification (PWB) and Public Works - Roads & Drainage (R&D). Consists of providing tree cutting and removal services countywide on an as needed basis. Recommend award to all responsive and responsible bidders: Casey Tree Experts, Inc., One Two Tree, LLC, Neda, Inc. dba Garden of Aden, and Sesmas Tree Service, LLC. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$7,554,975.00.

#### 2022-1894 Commission District(s): All

LB - Invitation No. 21-101473 2022 Gas Collection and Control System (GCCS) Expansion at Seminole Road MSW Landfill: for use by Public Works - Sanitation. Consists of the construction and expansion of the GCCS at the Seminole Road Landfill. Recommend award to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder: Carlson Environmental Consultants, PC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$3,045,848.00.

## Approved

## J. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

## K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### POLICY OF NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY IN COUNTY SERVICES.

DeKalb County Government does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities or exclude them from participating in or receiving benefits of its services, programs, or activities, based on disability. Janet Essix, DeKalb County Government's Employee Relations Manager and ADA Coordinator, is designated to coordinate the County's compliance with Part 35 of the Department of Justice regulations regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act. Janet Essix may be contacted at 1300 Commerce Drive, 1st Floor, Decatur, GA 30030, 404.371.2309, to request information about access for persons with disabilities to County services, programs and activities, or to discuss a grievance regarding an impediment to such access. Ten days' notice is requested for special accommodations.