

RESOLUTION OF THE ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL CALLING UPON THE STATE OF GEORGIA TO MANDATE BODY CAMERAS FOR ALL GEORGIA STATE PATROL (GSP) TROOPERS

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Board of Commission recognizes the important role that law enforcement plays in maintaining public safety and promoting justice; and

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Board of Commission is committed to ensuring transparency and accountability in law enforcement activities and believes that body cameras play an integral role in establishing trust between community relations, increasing accountability, improving evidence collection, and indemnifying officers from false allegations of impropriety; and

WHEREAS, as the lead of public safety, the Georgia Department of Public Safety is the policing agency in the State's criminal justice system, whose operation is significant in investigating major crimes and providing assistance to local law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Public Safety oversees the day-to-day operations of the Georgia State Patrol (GSP), Capitol Police and the Motor Carrier Compliance Division (MCCD); and

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Board of Commission believes that the use of body cameras by GSP Troopers can provide an additional layer of transparency and accountability in the agency's activities, maintaining the public trust, underscoring best practices, and providing invaluable evidence in criminal investigations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION:

1. That the DeKalb County Board of Commission hereby calls upon the State of Georgia to mandate the use of body cameras for all responding GSP Troopers.
2. That the DeKalb County Board of Commission requests that the Georgia General Assembly provide funding to support the implementation and operation of body camera programs by the GSP, including the necessary technology, storage, and personnel resources.
3. That the DeKalb County Board of Commission requests that the State of Georgia and Administration establish clear and consistent standards for the use of body cameras by GSP Troopers, including when cameras must be activated, how footage should be stored and maintained, and how footage should be made available to the public.
4. That the DeKalb County Board of Commission requests that the Georgia General Assembly establish clear and enforceable penalties for officers who fail to activate or maintain their body cameras in accordance with established policies and procedures.
5. That the DeKalb County Board of Commission requests that State of Georgia and Administration conduct regular assessments of the body camera programs of the GSP Troopers to ensure they are achieving their intended goals of transparency, accountability, and evidence gathering.
6. That the Clerk of the Board of Commission is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Georgia, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, and Director of the Georgia Department of Public Safety.