AN ORDINANCE
BY COUNCILMEMBER CEASAR C. MITCHELL

07-O-2137

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE SECTION 98-26.1 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA TO BE ENTITLED "COMMUNITY POLICING TRAINING AND PREPAREDNESS" (CoPTAP) PROGRAM WHICH SHALL REQUIRE THAT ALL MEMBERS OF EACH CLASS OF GRADUATES FROM THE POLICE ACADEMY, BEGINNING CLASS NUMBER 200, BE ASSIGNED TO FOOT PATROL DUTY FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN SIX MONTHS, IN THE TWO POLICE ZONES WHICH HAVE EXPERIENCED THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE RATE OF CRIME AND/OR HAVING THE HIGHEST CRIME RATE, WITH EACH SUBSEQUENT CLASS BEING SPLIT IN HALF AND SO ASSIGNED TO EACH REMAINING ZONE. BASED UPON THE SAME CRITERIA AND IN THE SAME MANNER IN DESCENDING ORDER, UNTIL ALL SIX POLICE ZONES HAVE EXPERIENCED THE BENEFIT OF THE CoPTAP PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT AFTER THE CoPTAP PROGRAM HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN ALL SIX ZONES, IT MAY BE RENEWED AND PERMANATELY IMPLEMENTED BY SUBSEQUENT ACTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL; TO WAIVE ALL ORDINANCES, RULES, REGULATIONS, POLICIES, PRACTIVCES AND PROCEDURES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, The City of Atlanta has as a population of nearly 500,000 residents and in addition to such residents, over 500,000 people frequent the City of Atlanta daily for attend school, work and recreation; and

WHEREAS, The Atlanta Police Department is currently staffed by 1700 sworn officers who are deployed in a number of capacities upon graduating from the Atlanta Police Academy; and

WHEREAS, many of the Atlanta Police Zones are understaffed by sworn officers, requiring Special Units to be deployed to assist in the day-to-day policing; and

WHEREAS, Community policing strategies, such as foot patrols are well established methods of preventing and reducing crime in the neighborhoods around Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, New recruits could greatly benefit from and develop adequate community experience through Foot Patrols; and

WHEREAS, Atlanta has experienced significant increases in the rate of crime over the past year; and

WHEREAS, It has been well established that the deployment of foot patrols in Atlanta neighborhoods is highly demanded by resident and will greatly impact this alarming increase in crime; and

WHEREAS, The City of Atlanta seeks to train and prepare all new recruits by initially deploying them in foot patrols for a period of not less than six (6) months; and

WHEREAS, Each graduating class of the Atlanta Police Academy shall be divided in half assigned collectively to an Atlanta Police Zone for a period of not less than six (6) months; and

WHEREAS, the foot patrols from the initial graduating class should be first assigned to the two Police Zones experiencing the most significant volume of crime and then each subsequent class from the Atlanta Police Academy will be assigned to each remaining Zone based upon this criteria in descending order; and

WHEREAS, Such a program of deployment can be accomplished through the utilization of graduated officers from the Atlanta Police Academy immediately after all requirements for deployment and service are met.

Section 1: A New Section 98-26.1 is hereby created in the Code of Ordinances of the City of Atlanta, Georgia which shall provide as follows:

Section 98-26.1. **Community policing training and preparedness program (CoPTAP)**

(a) Notwithstanding the foregoing Section 98-26 and any and all contrary ordinances, rules, regulations, policies, practices, or procedures, all members of each class of graduates from the Police Academy, beginning with class number 200 (scheduled to graduate November 14, 2007), shall be divided in half and assigned to foot patrol duty for a period of not less than six months, in the two police zones which have experienced the most significant increase in the rate of crime and/or having the highest rate, with each subsequent class being similarly divided in half and so assigned to each remaining zone based upon the same criteria and in the same manner in descending order, until all six police zones have experienced the benefit of the CoPTAP Program. In cases of public emergency which threatens life, health, property or public safety, said police officers may be temporarily reassigned in response to such extreme emergency in the discretion of the Chief of Police.

(b) After the CoPTAP Program has been implemented in all six police zones, IT MAY BE RENEWED AND PERMANATELY IMPLEMENTED BY SUBSEQUENT ACTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

Section 2: All ordinances, rules, regulations, policies, practices and procedures in conflict with this ordinance are hereby waived to the extent of any such conflict for purposes of this ordinance only.