



# ATLANTA CITY COUNCILMEMBER Keisha Lance Bottoms



## District 11 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

### Dear District 11 Neighbors,

Time really does fly when you are having fun. I often tell people that the best job I ever had was working at Six Flags Over Georgia when I was 15. Serving on the Atlanta City Council is a close second. In many ways, the lessons I learned working part time jobs in high school, still hold true today:

*You can work alone, but it is so much more fun when you can do it with others.*

*You can make selfish decisions that benefit you for a day, or you can make selfless choices that will define your reputation for a lifetime.*

*Nothing ever beats noble intentions and hard work.*

While I would like to think that these truths were imbedded in my heart and mind many hot summers ago, I know that fully embracing these lessons was more of an evolution than an instantaneous revelation. That evolution is very similar to the one I have experienced during my tenure on Atlanta City Council.

While I had a general sense of what I hoped to accomplish when I was sworn into office in 2010, I had not quite visualized the path to success.

However, it did not take long to realize that without community partnership and input, nothing conceived within the walls of City Hall would flourish.

Likewise, a goal without a plan is just a wish. In order for the vision of the community to be implemented, there has to be collaboration with various entities both in and outside City Hall. The most important lesson of all, I learned in Kindergarten.....**It is important to work well with others.**

Sometimes our progress will be measured in baby steps, at others it will be marked by gigantic leaps. No matter how large or small, so long as each and every step is one in the right direction, it matters. It really does take a village to create positive change in our community, and I look forward to continuing our work together to improve our city, one step, and one community at a time.

*Coming together is a beginning;  
Keeping together is progress;  
Working together is success.*  
– Anonymous

Best,  
*Keisha*

## ADAMS DRIVE BRIDGE & CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT COMPLETED

City Councilmember Keisha Lance Bottoms joined Mayor Kasim Reed, District 11 residents, and other special guests for the reopening of the newly constructed Adams Drive Bridge and culvert replacement project.

The original structure was built in 1960, but was closed in 2006 due to extensive deterioration and significant public safety hazards, which included a collapsed retaining wall on the eastern abutment and multiple cracks in the walls, barrels and footing.

Restorative construction began in March 2013 and was completed in October. Improvements included the replacement of the old four-barrel concrete culvert with a triple arch culvert and the replacement of the wing walls located at each end of the culvert.



## ABANDONED SW ATLANTA APARTMENT COMPLEX DEMOLISHED

Councilmember Keisha Lance Bottoms took another tough stance against vacant, blighted properties with the demolition of the Cornerstone apartment complex at the corner of Allison Court and Myrtle Drive in Southwest Atlanta.

The Cornerstone apartments was established in 1968, but in 2003 tenants began to file complaints against the complex owners with the Atlanta Police Department Code Enforcement Section.



The filings cited multiple property maintenance violations including electrical issues, inoperable plumbing, water leakages, and more.

“This demolition is a testament to the transformation that can occur in our neighborhoods when our communities and city officials work together,” said Councilmember Bottoms. “The tearing down of those buildings is a great boost to the morale of the community. It is a reminder that they have not been forgotten by the City, and that we will continue to do our part to make our neighborhoods safer.”



Continued...

“With a revamped code enforcement department, we are committed to

## LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO IMPROVE THE AESTHETICS OF BUSINESSES ALONG THE CAMPBELLTON ROAD CORRIDOR

Councilmember Keisha Lance Bottoms introduced new legislation that will limit the number and size of signs that businesses can post in storefront windows. The new legislation also requires businesses to obtain a sign permit if the advertisement is visible from the public right of way.



“It is not uncommon to find windows in businesses in many low income areas completely covered with signs advertising products ranging from alcohol to cigarettes. Neighborhood residents have long felt that there is no regard for the way this advertising makes the community look,” said Councilmember Bottoms.

In response, Councilmember Bottoms led the City of Atlanta’s Department of Planning and Zoning, the Office of Code Enforcement, the Department of Public Works, the City Solicitor’s Office and other city department leaders on a tour

holding property owners accountable for the conditions of their properties and to ridding our city of public health hazards and havens for crime,” said Bottoms.

of the Campbellton Road corridor from the 1700 block to the 2000 block of the thoroughfare.

“ I took representatives of several departments on a tour of Campbellton Road so that everyone could see the



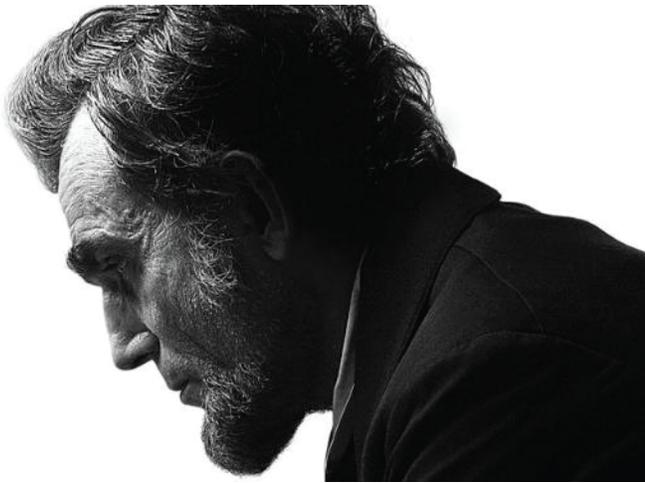
code enforcement and zoning issues plaguing the area. It was important that we joined together to evaluate these issues and identify the most effective way to resolve them,” said Bottoms.

During the tour, warnings were issued to several businesses for code violations.

“I am hopeful that this legislation will improve the appearance of many of the businesses whose excessive signage and solicitations have become eyesores throughout our City.” said Bottoms.



## LINCOLN CAME TO SOUTHWEST ATLANTA



The life of President Abraham Lincoln played out on the big screen at John A. White Park during “Movies in the Park,” a family event sponsored by Atlanta City Councilmember Keisha Lance and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

“I was thrilled to team up with the Department of Parks and Recreation to bring this great American story to one of our great Atlanta neighborhoods,” said Councilmember Bottoms. It’s important

for our residents to know that they don’t always have to venture far out for great experiences and entertainment. It’s wonderful to see families having fun and fellowship right in our own backyard.

Lincoln is an American epic historical drama film directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Daniel Day-Lewis as United States President Abraham Lincoln and Sally Field as Mary Todd Lincoln.

Movies in the Park began in 2011. Each summer members of the community are invited to bring folding chairs, blankets and snacks to John A. White Park to watch the silver screen under the stars.



## JAZZ WAS THE SOUNDTRACK FOR JOHN A. WHITE PARK

Councilmember Keisha Lance Bottoms, in partnership with the 36th Annual Atlanta Jazz Festival, presented a free neighborhood summer jazz concert at John A. White Park.

Featured performers included trumpeter Milkshake, saxophonist J.O. Wyatt, saxophonist J. Henry, and the Mays-Young Jazztet, which is comprised of students from Benjamin E. Mays High School and Jean Childs Young Middle School.





year the event gets bigger and better,” said Councilmember Bottoms. “All of the performers were amazing and the attendees especially enjoyed listening to the wonderfully talented musicians from their neighbors who attend and perform with Benjamin E. Mays High School and Jean Childs Young Middle School.”

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“2013 was the third year that I had the honor of bringing jazz to the beautiful John A. White Park, and each

The Atlanta Jazz Festival is an annual musical showcase that celebrates jazz in venues throughout metro Atlanta. The festival exposes and entertains diverse audiences to the rich heritage of jazz.

## SOUTHWEST CONNECTOR TRAIL OFFICIALLY OPENED

Councilmember Keisha Lance Bottoms joined more than 100 neighbors, cyclists, walkers, runners, police officers, Atlanta BeltLine supporters, and special guest for the groundbreaking of the Southwest Connector Trail.

The ceremony took place next to Beecher Hills Elementary School. Special thanks were given to the PATH Foundation, Department of Parks and Recreation, and Department of Watershed Management for partnering with Atlanta BeltLine, Inc, and walkers, joggers and bicyclists eagerly accepted their chance to break in the trail.

The Southwest Connector Trail is phase 1 of a 4.5 mile spur trail that will eventually connect the Westview Neighborhood to the Atlanta BeltLine. The trail allows for improved access to Beecher Hills Elementary School, connecting the existing Lionel Hampton Trail with Westwood Avenue.

The Southwest Connector Trail, along with the Eastside Trail, the West End Trail and the Northside Trail, will collectively add up to nearly seven miles of permanent trails along and near the Atlanta BeltLine corridor.



## CITY OFFICIALS & CONCERNED CITIZENS TALKED PUBLIC SAFETY AT SPECIAL TOWN HALL MEETING

Southwest Atlanta residents met with City of Atlanta officials to address pertinent public safety issues during a special public safety town hall meeting at Adamsville Recreation Center.

The meeting was hosted by Mayor Kasim Reed and City Councilmembers Keisha Lance Bottoms, C.T. Martin, Michael Julian Bond, Cleta Winslow and former City Councilmember H. Lamar Willis. Atlanta Police Chief George Turner and other officials with the Atlanta Police Department were also in attendance.



The meeting was a healthy dialogue between Mayor Reed, city council representatives, community residents and business owners, and the Atlanta Police Department.



### DO YOUR PART TO FIGHT CRIME

Crime Stoppers Greater Atlanta engages the entire community – citizens, media and law enforcement – to work towards making our communities safer by identifying the offenders who are committing crimes and helping to get them off of the streets. Crime Stoppers offers a \$2,000 reward for the arrest and indictment of individuals for certain crimes.

If you have information on criminal activity, please call the Crime Stoppers tip line at 404-577-TIPS(8477)

## THE CENTER OF HOPE AT BEN HILL IS NOW SERVING THE NEEDS OF DISTRICT 11 FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Councilmember Keisha Lance Bottoms and Mayor Kasim Reed were joined by community residents to celebrate the official launch of the Centers of Hope Initiative at the Ben Hill Center of Hope.

During the launch, Mayor Reed announced an expanded partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta along with other initiatives designed to increase enrollment at the city's recreation centers. The Ben Hill unveiling was a critical component of a three-year effort to fulfill the Administration's promise to re-open all of the recreation centers and convert them to state-of-the-art, comprehensive learning centers with structured academic, character and recreational programs.



As part of this commitment, The Center of Hope at Ben Hill underwent a new, two-story, 7,000 sq. ft. expansion which included a game room, multipurpose room, teaching kitchen, and activity room. The Center of Hope at Ben Hill was also wired for Wi-Fi.

## NEW ATHLETIC FIELDS INSTALLED AT THE CENTER OF HOPE AT BEN HILL

Located in the heart of District 11, the Center of Hope at Ben Hill received a few major upgrades that the community, and particularly the youth, are sure to enjoy.

Of the new additions, most notable is the new artificial turf field, which includes a new football field, three baseball fields and the addition of a soccer field, which will allow for new recreation programming.

With these new improvements, District 11 is certainly ready to play ball!



## CITY COUNCILMEMBER KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS SHARES VALENTINE'S DAY WITH DISTRICT 11 SENIORS

Atlanta City Councilmember Keisha Lance Bottoms, once again, hosted Valentine's Day celebrations at several District 11 senior living facilities. They included Providence Manor, Barge Road, Parkview at Coventry and Baptist Towers.

"It is a joy to share Valentine's Day with the many seniors in our community, as a way of showing our love for them and their contributions to making our community great," Bottoms said.

The seniors were treated to games and refreshments. Each celebration was filled with fun, fellowship, and most importantly, love.



## 2013 DISTRICT 11 TOWN HALL MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS

More than 200 District 11 residents attended the 2013 Town Hall meeting, which was convened by Councilmember Keisha Lance Bottoms at Ben Hill United Methodist Church.

"The annual District 11 Town Hall meeting allowed both constituents and city officials an opportunity to share, discuss, and resolve issues facing our communities," said Bottoms. "With representatives from major city departments present, residents

were also able to receive first-hand information regarding major developments and projects in our district and throughout the city."

City departments in attendance included the Mayor's Office of Constituent Services, Solid Waste Services, Bureau of Code Enforcement-Housing, Department of Watershed Management, Atlanta Fire Rescue, Atlanta Police Department, Atlanta Workforce Development, and the City of Atlanta's Commission on Aging.



## FRESH, LOCAL PRODUCE OFFERED AT CENTER OF HOPE AT BEN HILL

Councilwoman Keisha Lance Bottoms joined with Truly Living Well to host an open air farmers market for District 11 residents at the Center of Hope at Ben Hill.

"It was an honor to join with Truly Living Well to host the inaugural farm fresh food event and I hope we will eventually generate enough interest to host a farmers market year round in District 11," said Bottoms.

The market offered a variety of seasonal produce that was locally grown and harvested fresh from nearby farms. In

addition to fruits and vegetables, patrons were able to shop a variety of herbs and dried flowers.

Truly Living Well was founded in 2006 by K. Rashid Nuri to meet the fresh food needs of families in the local Atlanta community. The objective was to bring nutritionally-rich, fresh-picked produce to local residents through a community supported agriculture program.



## CITY COUNCILMEMBER KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS PROVIDES UPDATES ON STREETScape PROJECTS THROUGHOUT DISTRICT 11

Atlanta City Councilmember Keisha Lance Bottoms joined neighborhood associations across the district to celebrate the construction of streetscape projects along Danforth Road, Greenbriar Parkway, Benjamin E. Mays Drive, and Headland Drive.



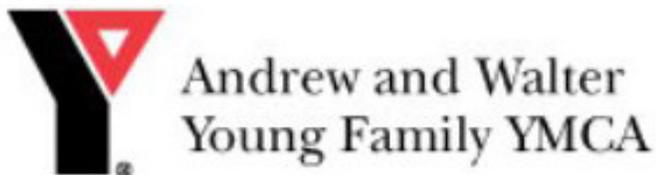
The scope of the projects includes the installation of concrete American Disabilities Act-compliant sidewalks, driveway aprons, handicap accessible wheelchair ramps, curbing and gutters, decorative pedestrian lighting, guardrails and drainage and piping structures as needed.

## COMMUNITY LEADERS DINNER HELD AT THE ANDREW AND WALTER YOUNG FAMILY YMCA

Councilmember Bottoms hosted a Community Leaders Dinner at the Andrew and Walter Young Family YMCA on Campbellton Road on June 6 to discuss concerns facing District 11.

Representatives from NPUs, Neighborhood Associations, churches and business leaders within the district were in attendance.

Councilmember Bottoms gave an overview of issues concerning the city and provided the status of the community projects underway within the District.



Major concerns of the constituents included increased attention on crime, a need for more viable businesses on Campbellton Road, improved Code Enforcement, and enhanced collaboration with the public schools.

“This was a very productive meeting,” said Bottoms. “The smaller, informal setting was a great opportunity to discuss issues facing our neighborhoods and ways that we can work together to make sustained improvements. Community leaders were also able to share things that have been done in their respective neighborhoods to make them better.”

## GEORGIA TECH URBAN DESIGN WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON CASCADE HEIGHTS COMMERCIAL DISTRICT



A group of Georgia Tech students are focusing their studies on the commercial development along the Cascade Heights Commercial District (CHCD) in southwest Atlanta.

The students, who are currently taking a course offered by the School of Architecture titled, "Urban Form and Community: identity, place + development" have been tasked with researching, analyzing and interpreting the issues facing the CHCD and developing proposals and recommendations for the community and the district's future development.

"This initiative was the brainchild of leaders in the Adams Park community," Councilmember Bottoms said. "Through collaboration with our offices, resources were identified to help fund this study. This is a great example of the positive impact that can be made in our neighborhoods when we all work together toward a common goal. The Atlanta Beltline became reality following a similar initiative, and I am excited about the possibilities that are on the horizon for the Cascade Heights Commercial District."

The Urban Form and Community course asks students, *"What are the relevant issues driving a community's identity, its*

*growth and development?," and "How can changes in the urban form of a community support a sense of place and serve as a catalyst for commercial development?"*

Led by faculty advisor, Jihan Sherman, the course emerged through a partnership between the School of Architecture and a group of neighbors served by the historic district with the vision of helping to propel its growth and vitality.

During the semester, the Georgia Tech students have several important interactions with the surrounding communities. The first included an open, community workshop seeking to capture input from residents, community leaders, commercial property owners and business owners. Towards the conclusion of the program, the participating students will present proposals and recommendations to the community for dialogue and feedback.

The Georgia Tech students involved are Allison Buker, Michael Delinsky, William Fryer, Jennifer Ingram, Kaitlyn Pahel, Sean Sims, Steven Victor, Heather Waite and Gloria Woods.

The Georgia Tech/ CHCD initiative is made possible in part by Councilmember Bottoms and her esteemed colleague, Councilmember C.T. Martin.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

## The Jazz Festival Returns to District 11!

**5 GREAT ACTS. 1 GREAT NIGHT.**

**Saturday May 3, 2014**

**4:00 PM**

**Adams Park, 1620 Delowe Dr., SW,  
Atlanta, GA 30311.**

*More details coming soon!*



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