



Happy Holidays

Atlanta City Council considers legislation aimed at providing the public online access to city and city council financial transactions

The Committee on Council and the Finance/Executive Committee of the Atlanta City Council held a joint work session on December 8, regarding proposed Ordinances 15-O-1585 and 15-R-4504 at Atlanta City Hall.

In an effort to ensure the transparency of all financial expenditures incurred by the city and its legislative body, the Atlanta City Council is considering the approval of legislation that would allow the public to access City of Atlanta and Atlanta City Council financial records and information online.



The sponsors of the legislative items, City Councilmembers Felicia Moore and Mary Norwood, said the Atlanta City Council has a fiduciary duty to act in a way that would benefit the city's residents and is working vigorously to ensure that they can have ready access to the city's financial information.

In 2013, Atlanta received an "F" rating from the United States Public Interest Research Group Education Fund, a 501(c) (3) organization that works to protect consumers, taxpayers, and promote good government.

The City of Atlanta honors Atlanta Bicycle Coalition co-founder Dennis Hoffarth



The legacy of Atlanta Bicycle Coalition (ABC) co-founder Dennis Hoffarth was memorialized on December 1, with the re-dedication of a bike lane on Peachtree Street in his honor.

Although Atlanta has been long associated with a dependence on automobiles, Hoffarth helped lay the foundation for the increase in popularity and safety of bicycling throughout the city and the region.

Dennis Hoffarth's legacy include: working doggedly with city and county governments to design and implement bike lane networks in the metro area; working with MARTA

to allow bikes on trains, and later on buses; organizing ABC's Bike to Work Day and "Bike There" events every May; and much more.

Hoffarth, 67, died from complications of a brain tumor on July 15.



Atlanta City Council 2017 committee assignments announced

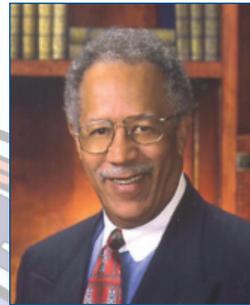
Atlanta City Council President Caesar C. Mitchell on December 5 announced the chairs and the members of the 2017 Atlanta City Council standing committees. The committees meet on a bi-monthly basis to make recommendations on legislative items then report their recommendations to the full Council. Each committee has purview over various city departmental operations.

The following city councilmembers will serve as committee chairs and committee members in the next calendar year:



City Utilities Committee

Alex Wan - Chair
Yolanda Adrean
Natalyn Archibong
C.T. Martin
Joyce Sheperd
Howard Shook
Carla Smith



Transportation Committee

C.T. Martin – Chair
Natalyn Archibong
Keisha Lance Bottoms
Andre Dickens
Kwanza Hall
Felicia Moore
Joyce Sheperd



Community Development/ Human Services Committee

Natalyn Archibong- Chair
Michael Julian Bond
Andre Dickens
Mary Norwood
Joyce Sheperd
Cleta Winslow
Ivory Lee Young, Jr.



Zoning Committee

Carla Smith - Chair
Keisha Lance Bottoms
Kwanza Hall
Mary Norwood
Howard Shook
Joyce Sheperd
Alex Wan



Public Safety Committee

Andre Dickens - Chair
Yolanda Adrean
Michael Julian Bond
C.T. Martin
Felicia Moore
Cleta Winslow
Ivory Lee Young, Jr.



Finance/Executive Committee

Howard Shook - Chair
Yolanda Adrean
Natalyn Mosby Archibong
C.T. Martin
Felicia Moore
Carla Smith
Alex Wan



The Council President Pro Tempore (who serves in the absence of the Council President) will be elected during the first Council meeting at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3. Committee vice chairs will be elected during the following week. Permanent committee meeting times and committee briefing times will be selected during the first committee week of 2017.



Committee on Council

Felicia Moore - Chair
Michael Julian Bond
Keisha Lance Bottoms
Kwanza Hall
Mary Norwood
Cleta Winslow
Ivory Lee Young, Jr.



Atlanta City Councilmember Keisha Lance Bottoms introduces legislation on the creation of Displacement Free Zones, an innovative method of preventing eviction of low-income property and small business owners due to gentrification



In an effort to prevent the eviction of low-income property owners and small businesses due to the impact of gentrification in urban neighborhoods, City Councilmember Keisha Lance Bottoms has introduced legislation requesting a report on establishing Displacement Free Zones in the City of Atlanta.

If the legislation is approved, the Department of Planning and Community Development would have 120 days to provide its findings to the Atlanta City Council.

Across the U.S., an increasing number of cities are using Displacement Free Zones (DFZs) also known as Eviction Free Zones (EFZs), to prevent the displacement of low-income property and business owners due to the impact of gentrification, particularly in urban neighborhoods.

Gentrification is the process whereby low-income neighborhoods, usually in urban areas, are made attractive to high-income residents. What was once low amenity/high density rental complex is turned into a high amenity/low density condominium complexes or luxury rental units.

The negative result is that the original, low-income tenants in newly gentrified neighborhoods too often can't afford to remain, primarily due to higher rents; and for a homeowner, higher property taxes and overall cost of living.

To ease the burden, cities are implementing the Displacement Free Zones strategy directly in the neighborhood by providing a cap on the rental rates, property taxes and other initiatives to support long-time residents and business owners.

DFZs are currently being used or considered in cities such as Washington, DC's Columbia Heights, New York's Harlem, Los Angeles' Figueroa Corridor, San Francisco's Mission district, Miami's Over-

these neighborhoods, beginning with our residents and small business owners," said Councilmember Bottoms. "Exploring the creation of Displacement Free Zones are yet another step in furthering the discussion on ways to combat the displacement of long-time property owners from the city."

Bottoms said from a small business perspective, she realizes the impact gentrification can have on the bottom line.

"My mother was a long time small business owner and was forced to close her business as a result of anticipated gentrification. This legislation will charge our Planning Department to determine, those portions of the city that would be

eligible to be identified as Displacement Free Zones, the strategies to be used to create Displacement Free Zones and the cost estimate to create Displacement Free Zones in eligible areas."

Lisa Pope, a long-time homeowner in the Summerhill neighborhood near Turner Field said, "I am excited about the

redevelopment that I see around Atlanta. But in the 20 years since I purchased my home, many people in the area have moved because they could not afford the rising rent. I am glad to see the city will be exploring ways to make sure this neighborhood will continue to be affordable for everyone."



ton, Portland's Kern Community and Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine neighborhood.

According to the Gentrification in America Report, the City of Atlanta ranks fifth on the list of gentrifying cities due to the rapid revitalization of various local neighborhoods.

"While redevelopment is important for many of our underserved communities, it is equally important that we as a city establish inclusive means by which we are able to preserve the historic fabric of



Atlanta City Councilmembers Kwanza Hall and Natalyn Archibong host community meeting for the Renew Atlanta Bond Program's DeKalb Avenue Corridor Improvement Project

City Councilmembers Kwanza Hall and Natalyn Archibong hosted a community meeting for the Renew Atlanta Bond Program's DeKalb Avenue Corridor Improvements Project on November 17 at Liberty Baptist Church.

"DeKalb Avenue is a significant east-west corridor for many intown neighborhoods in Council Districts 2 & 5," said District 2 Councilmember Kwanza Hall. "I hope that residents, small business owners and other stakeholders will attend this first community meeting and offer their suggestions for the future of the corridor."

Under the Renew Atlanta Bond, passed by City of Atlanta voters in 2015, a plan is in place to upgrade a portion of DeKalb Avenue to a Complete Street, which is a street that offers safe, comfortable, and convenient access to community destinations and public places—whether walking, driving, bicycling, or taking public transportation.

This would ensure streets are safe for people of all ages and abilities, balance the needs of different modes, and support local land uses, economies, cultures, and natural environments.

DeKalb Avenue is a major east-west corridor, linking the City of Atlanta and the City of Decatur. The limits of the proposed project are from Peachtree Street to the Atlanta City Limits. This corridor serves numerous adjoining residential neighborhoods from Downtown Atlanta to Kirkwood. Along this section of DeKalb Avenue there are six MARTA rail stations: Five Points,



Georgia State, King Memorial, Inman Park-Reynoldstown, Edgewood, Candler Park and Eastlake.



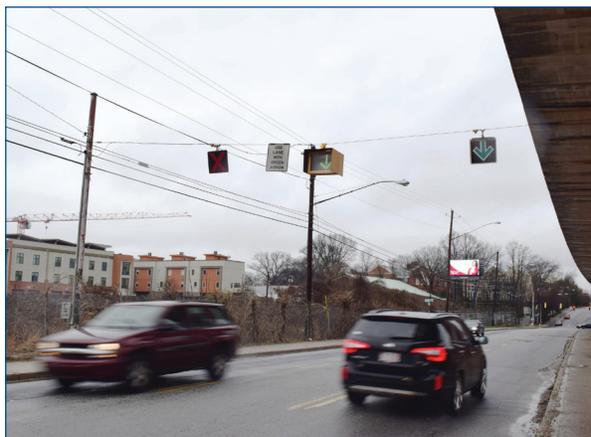
day. Sidewalks are present on the majority of the corridor. Bicycle lanes are located on the western segment of the corridor from Jesse Hill Jr. Drive to Jackson Street. There are also parallel bicycle lanes on Edgewood Avenue.

"DeKalb Avenue is among the most challenging of our streets in the City of Atlanta, with narrow widths defined on one side by

the MARTA line, complex vehicular movements with the existing reversible lane, high traffic volumes, bike and pedestrian users, and higher accident rates," said Faye DiMassimo, General Manager of Renew Atlanta Infrastructure Program. "The Renew Atlanta Bond and TSPLOST programs provide us with the opportunity to take a completely fresh look at the challenges and opportunities and

redefine this important transportation link for the future. Residents and stakeholders are key to the effort."

The \$250 million program is the most significant investment in Atlanta's above-ground infrastructure in more than a decade and is a first step toward resolving an infrastructure repair backlog of more than \$900 million.



This corridor serves numerous destinations such as Georgia State University, the Lake Claire Pool, the Krog Street Market, Candler Park, Little Five Points, Grady Hospital and Historic Oakland Cemetery, and several retail and entertainment areas.

The corridor also parallels Interstate 20. Traffic volumes range from 10,000 to 11,000 vehicles per



Atlanta Recycling Perks awards \$1,000 gift card to city resident

Ormewood Park resident Adam Suspack was recently awarded a \$1,000 Visa gift card from Atlanta Recycling Perks in celebration of America Recycles Day and in observance of the first year of Recycling Perks, in Atlanta. The \$1,000 Visa gift card sweepstakes ran from August 19, 2016 to September 19, 2016.

The sweepstakes was open to single-family residents who are members of the Recycling Perks program as well as to residents who participate in curbside recycling.

Recycling Perks, a national recycling incentive and educational program, interviewed and quizzed thousands of people throughout the country, including Atlanta, to make them aware of the importance of recycling.

Their latest campaign, the America Recycles Day \$1,000 Quiz, was a mix of both these goals: it involved the community, and encouraged more people to recycle by showing them some facts. Some of the interviewed residents who said they didn't recycle became motivated to start

recycling after hearing those facts.

Residents were invited to answer quiz questions such as, "According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average American generates 4.40 pounds of trash per day. How many pounds do you think the average American recycles on average per day?"



The correct answer to this question, 1.51 pounds, makes people realize, that even though America is recycling, there is still a long way to go.

Honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Rialto Center for the Arts

City Councilmember Kwanza Hall recognized Georgia State University's Rialto Center for the Arts on two 2016 milestones: the 100th anniversary of its opening as a cultural venue and the 20th anniversary of its affiliation with Georgia State University.

Councilman Hall presented a proclamation to Georgia State University leaders, board and to staff members of the Rialto Center on November 21. Among Hall's guests for the presentation were Georgia State University First Lady Laura Voisinet; Julia Kerlin, director of GSU's Office of Government and Community Affairs; Board Chair Nancy Nolan; and Leslie Gordon, the Rialto Center's director.

"The Rialto Center for the Arts has been a first-class performance hall at Georgia State University's School of Music for the last 20 years," said Hall. "Since its affiliation with Georgia State University, it has become a driver for economic development downtown and an anchor institution for other arts and cultural organizations in the heart of the city. Atlantans love the Rialto and its innovative programming – featuring the best of national and international jazz, world music, film, and dance."

The Rialto opened in 1916 as a family vaudeville house and soon became the largest movie house in the southeast. In 1996, Georgia State University purchased the movie theater and re-opened it as a renovated performing arts center in time for the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games. Since re-opening in 1996, the Rialto has hosted over 1,000,000 visitors and served over 80,000 students of all ages.



Council



Contact

Midtown Garden District residents come together to finalize neighborhood master plan

City Councilmember Kwanza Hall and the Midtown Neighbors Association hosted the final public workshop of the Midtown Garden District Master Plan process on November 10 at Henry Grady High School.

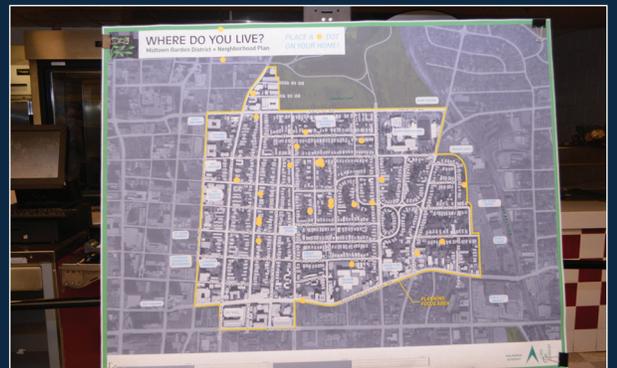
During the event, the initiative's planning consultant team gave a presentation highlighting the main projects and strategies within the draft plan, followed by an interactive project prioritization exercise.

The Garden District lies between Piedmont Avenue and the Atlanta BeltLine. It includes the historic residential properties east of Piedmont Avenue, as well as commercial properties along Monroe Drive and Ponce De Leon Avenue.

"Since we launched this master planning effort with the Midtown Neighbors Association in February 2016, hundreds of Midtown residents have shared their vision for the future of their neighborhood," said Hall. "This final public workshop, led by the architecture and design firm Lord Aeck Sargent, was the culmination of months of community meetings and focus groups."

"The Master Plan will implement consistent streetscapes, enhance street lighting, improve infrastructure and enrich greenspace in the Midtown Garden District (MGD)," said Midtown Neighbors Association President Tony Rizzuto. "Extending our existing efforts in the Midtown Improvement District (MID), it will create a truly comprehensive plan for the entire neighborhood."

This is the first master planning effort for the Midtown Garden District, which became a part of Atlanta City Council District 2 in 2014.



Atlanta City Council announces winter recess



In accordance with City of Atlanta Charter section 2-303(a), the Atlanta City Council will recess during the period beginning Monday, December 19 and ending Friday, December 30.

The next full City Council meeting following the recess will take place at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3 in the City Council Chamber, Atlanta City Hall, 55 Trinity Avenue, S.W.

The Committee on Council will meet prior to the full City Council meeting at 11:15 a.m. in Committee Room No. 1.

City of Atlanta hosts first-ever collection of scrap tires from businesses in the city



Businesses are believed to be a contributing factor in larger scrap tire dumping sites.

“The City of Atlanta scrap tire law has been on the books for several years, unfortunately it has not been enforced,” said Keep Atlanta Beautiful Commission Executive Director Kanika Greenlee. “Starting in 2017, the City of Atlanta is committed to making sure that local tire dealers are complying with the law.”

In an ongoing and aggressive effort to crack down on scrap tire dumping, the city of Atlanta, in partnership with Liberty Tire Recycling, hosted the first-ever scrap tire collection for city businesses to discard of old tires, free of charge.

Said Atlanta City Councilmember Joyce Sheperd: “Illegal dumping is a major problem in the City of Atlanta. Tires are a blight on the community and can be a major contributor to health issues. Mosquitoes breed in tires and in light of the Zika virus and other mosquito-borne viruses, we have to get tough.”

More than 20 businesses participated in the event including automotive repair shops and new and used tire dealerships. Typically amnesty events have been for households and neighborhoods only.

The December 10 event was sponsored by the Keep Atlanta Beautiful Commission, Councilmember Sheperd and Liberty Tire Recycling.

Atlanta City Councilmember Michael Julian Bond honors Emmy Award-winning poet Hank Stewart



the civil rights movement, Rosa Parks with a special poetry dedication. Stewart has recited his works for Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Atlanta Former Mayor Shirley Franklin, the late Rev. Hosea Williams and Dr. Joseph E. Lowery. He also performed for the late actress Ruby Dee, the late attorney Johnny Cochran, Harry Belafonte, Xernona Clayton and Ambassador Andrew Young, just to name a few.

Stewart’s performance at the Trumpet Awards and Essence Music Festival helped pave a way to poetic rendition commercials that won him a 2007 Emmy.

City Councilmember Michael Julian Bond, the Department of Human Resources and dozens of dignitaries, including U.S. Congressman Hank Johnson, Council President Ceasar Mitchell, Councilmembers C.T. Martin and Andre Dickens, and former Atlanta First Lady Bunnie Ransom-Jackson gathered on November 7 at Atlanta City Hall to honor Emmy Award-winning poet Hank Stewart.



Stewart has been a writer and spoken word poet for 25 years, as well as a public speaker and foundation president. The gala event featured a book signing for his latest work “Twenty-Five Years And Counting,” a recital of much of his spoken word “conscious poetry,” and a proclamation presentation to the Emmy Award-winning poet.

The program also included greetings from former court TV Judge Glenda Hatchett and a Q&A session with Stewart on his works lead by former WSB-TV anchor Monica Pearson.



Hank Stewart’s poetry has awarded him many opportunities including working on programs with prominent officials such as former U.S. Vice President Al Gore and contributing a piece honoring the mother of

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