



City Councilmembers Join Mayor Kasim Reed for Public Safety Town Hall Meetings

Members of the Atlanta City Council joined Mayor Kasim Reed in August and September for a series of public safety town hall meetings in southeast and southwest Atlanta.

The meetings were designed to address the City's commitment to reduce crime.

The standing room only crowds heard directly from Mayor Kasim Reed and Atlanta Police Department Chief George Turner on the steps the city has taken to combat the recent uptick in crime in Zone 6. Those steps include an increase in patrols, officers working on foot and on bicycle, increased intelligence used to make arrests, and the use of discretionary units such as the department's Community Oriented Policing Section to conduct proactive police measures.

Chief Turner reported that officers have made a number of significant arrests in Zone 6, including many repeat offenders who have been arrested multiple times for crimes including armed robbery, burglary and car break-ins.

More than 800 officers have been added to the police force since 2009 in the effort to grow the Atlanta Police Department to a strength of 2,000 officers. Mayor Reed stated that he expects to hit that mark this year.



The meetings were held at Drew Charter School in East Atlanta, at Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church in southeast Atlanta and at Atlanta Metropolitan State College and the Adamsville Recreation Center in southwest Atlanta. Additional meetings will be scheduled in the fall for the central and northern sections of the city.



Atlanta Welcomes PulteGroup to Buckhead

Atlanta City Councilmembers joined Invest Atlanta and Mayor Kasim Reed in welcoming PulteGroup to its new Buckhead headquarters in August.

Invest Atlanta, along with the Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Metro Atlanta Chamber, played a leading role in choosing the location of the company's new home. PulteGroup will occupy 100,000 square feet of Class A office space in Capital City Plaza.

At-Large Atlanta City Councilmember Aaron Watson noted, "It is a delight to have PulteGroup bring its headquarters to the Buckhead Central Business District. We look forward to PulteGroup becoming integrated in our City's civic and economic fabric, particularly as they begin hiring our fine citizens."





Atlanta Welcomes PulteGroup to Buckhead.... (continued from page 1)

The leading homebuilder announced its plan to relocate its corporate headquarters from Michigan to Atlanta in May. PulteGroup’s move will create 310 high-paying new jobs. The relocation will be complete in 2014.

“Bringing PulteGroup to Atlanta is a huge win for the city and for Buckhead, which is already a thriving haven for the best real estate, shopping and housing,” said Howard Shook, council member, District 7. “The company will provide jobs for our highly skilled workforce and quality homes for our residents. This is a great example of how successful we continue to be in attracting top companies to our world-class city.”



“As a board member, I’m delighted to have PulteGroup in Atlanta to facilitate even more job growth and economic development in the city,” said Joyce Shepherd, council member, District 12, who sits on the Invest Atlanta board.

PulteGroup, Inc. operates Pulte Homes, Centex Homes and Del Webb. The company, which is number 501 on the Fortune 1,000 list, develops and builds communities in 28 states across the U.S.

City Councilmember Kwanza Hall and Living Walls Mark the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington

August 28th marked the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s landmark “I Have a Dream” speech delivered at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial. In commemoration of this historic anniversary Atlanta-based street art initiative known as Living Walls further demonstrated its ability to capture the soul of the city.

The organization invited renowned street artist, JR, to paint several murals in commemoration of the March on Washington. The three pieces, located throughout the King Historic District, feature black and white photographs taken at different points throughout the civil rights movement, including one taken on the National Mall at the August 1963 march.

District 2 Councilmember Kwanza Hall welcomed JR to Atlanta on August 1 and watched as the first installment went up on Auburn Avenue.



Originally from France, JR came to Atlanta with a breadth of experience in urban mural artistry. His artistic technique involves reinterpreting already existing photographs, enlarging them, and pasting them onto buildings to magnify their historical significance. His new pieces have added to the already vibrant street life found throughout the King Historic District.



Atlanta City Councilmembers Join Council President Ceasar C. Mitchell in Letting Freedom Ring

Atlanta City Council President Ceasar C. Mitchell led a bell ringing ceremony August 28th in the atrium of the Atlanta City Hall in support of the national efforts to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the historic March On Washington and Dr. King's, "I Have A Dream Speech."

City Hall employees and members of the public joined Council President Mitchell and his fellow Councilmembers in the City Hall atrium.

Additionally he was joined by State Representative Rahn Mayo and East Point City Councilmember Marcel Reed. Other guests included representatives from Consular offices, non-profit organizations, business executives and human rights organizations.



"I was truly honored to stand with my colleagues on the Atlanta City Council, other elected officials, city of Atlanta employees and members of the community to honor the legacy of the March on Washington and Dr. King's 'I Have a Dream' speech," said Council President Mitchell.

Following the 3 p.m. bell ringing ceremony, attendees held hands and sang the civil rights anthem, "We Shall Overcome".

Atlanta R&B radio station Majic 107.5/97.5 broadcast live from the event. The event was also covered by local television news broadcast stations.

City Councilmember Kwanza Hall Engages Small Businesses in the North Boulevard Community Improvement Efforts

Small business owners along the north Boulevard corridor are becoming more engaged in the community's improvements efforts thanks to the first in a series of meetings hosted by City Councilmember Kwanza Hall.

On August 7, Hall convened business owners from the north Boulevard corridor (Ponce to Ralph McGill) to meet recently appointed APD Zone 6 Commander Timothy Peek. The meeting at Fort Street Memorial United Methodist Church was the first in a series to get the area's small businesses engaged in the community improvement efforts taking place along the Boulevard corridor as a whole.

Hall spoke about the dramatic changes that have taken place in the Old Fourth Ward in the past six years alone, since 1,000 residents and business owners came together in 2007-8 to envision the future of the neighborhood as part of the Old Fourth Ward master planning process. He also summarized the accomplishments of the Year of



Boulevard initiative since its launch in January 2012.



In the midst of many positive improvements in public safety and quality of life, Hall said, small businesses in the Boulevard corridor bounded by Ponce to the north and Ralph McGill to the south "have not regenerated themselves" and are not engaged in lifting up the community. The group that gathered today is the nucleus of an ongoing working group that will tackle issues of ongoing concern. The group will also serve as a networking vehicle to connect quality realtors and small developers who share the community's vision for the future with longstanding property owners who are no longer contributing to the neighborhood's betterment.



Atlanta City Council Legislation



Atlanta City Council Rezones Clermont Hotel Property

The Atlanta City Council in August approved the rezoning of the property located at 789 Ponce De Leon Avenue and 672 AND 676 Bonaventure Avenue, N.E., from the C-1 (Community Business) District and the R-5 (Two-Family Residential) District to the MRC-2-C (Mixed Residential Commercial-Conditional) District.

Clermont Hotel Partners LLC, a partnership whose principals include Philip Welker and Ethan Orley, purchased the landmark property on Ponce de Leon Avenue earlier this year.

Built in the 1920s as apartments, the building was converted to a hotel in the 1940s.

The City Council also granted a special use permit for the property allowing for a hotel to open at the location.



Atlanta Accepts Coca-Cola Troops for Fitness Grant



The Atlanta City Council approved a resolution allowing the city to accept a \$192,500 grant to support the Coca-Cola Troops for Fitness program. The program is funded by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and the Coca-Cola Foundation. It's part of Coca-Cola's "Get the Ball Rolling" initiative to inspire people to get out and be active during the summer. Troops For Fitness grants create opportunities for nutrition, education and physical activity programs while also providing employment opportunities for our nation's veterans. Other communities participating in Troops For Fitness program through NRPA include: Sacramento, CA., Miami-Dade County, FL. and Newark, NJ.



As part of this healthy life-style program, the Coca-Cola Company presented a Family Field Day this summer outside the World of Coca-Cola to encourage physical activity. City Council President Caesar C. Mitchell attended the event in August to show his support of Coca-Cola's effort to promote the health and well-being of Atlantans.





Atlanta City Council Legislation

Atlanta City Councilmember Howard Shook Introduces Legislation Regarding Billboards and Laws Promoting and Requiring Trees



Atlanta City Councilmember Howard Shook introduced legislation at the September 16 council meeting that was unanimously supported by the Atlanta City Council urging Mayor Kasim Reed and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to resolve any confusion regarding the placement and care of street trees along state routes.

Atlanta’s desire to create vibrant, healthy, walkable places to work, shop, and live relies in no small part on the installation of street trees. Hundreds of trees have already been planted and many more approved via legislation adopting specific projects as well as aspirational plans.

Shook says these trees could be at risk pursuant to the interpretation of a recently changed state law regulating the relationship between billboards and trees along state routes. The resolution states council’s desire that Mayor Reed or an appropriate representative work with GDOT to develop a policy that promotes and protects the public’s interest.



Livable Buckhead Executive Director Denise Starling recently discovered that legislation passed by the Georgia General Assembly dictates that trees cannot be planted within 500 feet of a billboard. That led to the city of Atlanta’s SPI-9 and SPI-12 legislation covering much of Buckhead, which sets the zoning standards for new and redone developments to create more walkable, pedestrian friendly environments in Buckhead with standards for buildings as well as for streetscapes, sidewalks, and trees and landscapes.

City Councilmember Michael Julian Bond “Lets the Music Play On...”



The Atlanta City Council approved legislation by Councilmember Michael Julian Bond clarifying the city’s current panhandling ordinance. The measure followed two separate arrests of trombonist Eryk McDaniel outside Turner Field and violinist Johnny Arco inside the Five Points MARTA station for playing their musical instruments in public. Council reworked its panhandling ordinance last fall, making it illegal to ask for money within 15 feet of entrances and exits to many public and private buildings, however the measure did not clearly exempt street musicians.

Other parts of the current panhandling ordinance that pertain to aggressive panhandlers would still apply including specific acts such as playing an instrument, having a sign asking for money, or leaving one’s case open would remain legal, allowing street performers to continue their craft.



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Hammer'in Hank Aaron Honors a District 10 Centennerian



Atlanta City Councilmember C.T. Martin poses for a photo with baseball great Hammerin Hank Aaron. Mr. Aaron presented a signed baseball bat and ball to a District 10 constituent and ardent fan in honor of her 100th Birthday.

Atlanta City Councilmember Cleta Winslow Hosts Homebuyer Workshop and Tour of Adair Park

District 4 Councilmember Cleta Winslow continued her commitment to extending the American dream to her constituents. In partnership with the Empire Board of Realists, she hosted a free homebuyer workshop on August 17. Walking potential homebuyers through the purchasing process, the hosts provided seminars on down payment assistance and credit readiness, budgeting, home inspections, and the closing process.

In addition to the workshop, Winslow organized a self-guided housing tour of the Adair Park community that highlighted available houses in the neighborhood.

The August workshop and tour was the latest in a series of efforts to revive and expand homeownership among District 4 residents and spur a housing recovery in the area.

Zoo Atlanta in National Spotlight Lun Lun & Yang Yang Are the Proud Parents to Twin Pandas



Zoo Atlanta welcomed its first set of twin pandas this summer. City Councilmember Carla Smith joined hundreds of Atlantans and visitors in excitement about the new baby pandas.

"We are thrilled about the twin pandas," said Smith. "Twin pandas have not been born in the United States since 1987 and they were born right here in District 1 at Zoo Atlanta. Their birth received national news coverage and is welcome news for America's premiere Zoo."

Zookeepers have their hands full with the panda family which includes mom, Lun Lun; dad, Yang Yang; and the twins who – under Chinese tradition – have to wait 100 days before they are named. Over the last few weeks, the twins have rapidly gained weight and are doing just fine.



City Councilmember Carla Smith Hosts KidsZone at 2013 Grant Park Summer Shade Festival

Atlanta City Councilmember Carla Smith was again a proud sponsor of the annual Grant Park Summer Shade Festival.

This year marked the 11th annual festival. Each year, residents and visitors celebrate Atlanta's oldest public park with an outdoor weekend festival featuring a diverse artist market, live

music from acclaimed performers, fun activities for children and plenty to eat and drink. The Summer Shade Festival supports the Grant Park Conservancy, the organization responsible for maintaining the 131.5 acres of this amazing public green space.

This summer's celebration drew thousands of Atlantans and visitors on August 24 & 25 for fun, live entertainment and delicious food – all under the shade.

The engaging entertainment included performances for young audiences by both young performers and seasoned professionals. Kids were able to roll up their sleeves to participate in plenty of craft activities, some of which were completely free.



City Councilmember Felicia Moore Joins Collins Memorial United Methodist Church in Dedicating a Food Pantry on Wheels

Hundreds of more Atlantans will now benefit from a weekly food distribution thanks to Collins Memorial United Methodist Church's new food pantry on wheels.

City Councilmember Felicia Moore join members of the Collins Memorial United Methodist Church and the community to dedicate a new food pantry in September.

The church is located at 2220 Bolton Road, N.W. and has been active in the Bolton and Riverside communities since October 1909.

During the celebration more than 500 families received free food assistance as part of the church's weekly food distribution. The new mobile food pantry is dubbed affectionately Christened "Mary Grace Collins" Food Truck.

"It was an honor to join the community in dedicating the new food pantry, which will go far in expanding the church's food distribution efforts in Atlanta," said Councilmember Moore. "There is a growing need to bring healthy foods directly to neighbor-

hoods where low-income people lack access to food-assistance programs and grocery stores. The truck will also go a long way in supplementing the efforts of existing food-assistance programs that cannot provide enough items to feed a family. Collins Memorial United Methodist Church should certainly be commended for its work in our community."

Like most urban community churches, Collins Memorial has mirrored the plight of the socio-economic conditions of the area. The latest recession greatly impacted the community with its rising unemployment, plummeting property values, business closings and food insecurity.

In May, Collins Memorial was awarded a grant through the Atlanta Community Food Bank for capital improvements which has empowered the church to significantly increase food distribution. Now with the purchase of a used box cargo food truck, a walk-in freezer



and refrigerator and increased storage space has turned their spiritual dreams into reality.



City Councilmember Ivory Lee Young Hosts District 3 Town Hall Meeting

Atlanta City Councilmember Ivory Lee Young Jr. was joined by nearly one hundred residents for a town hall meeting on August 20 at the Foundary at Puritan Mill.

Constituents discussed issues facing their neighborhoods with the Councilmember as well as communicated their concerns with top city officials and other agencies. Updates were also given on ongoing initiatives and projects across District 3.

Agencies and departments in attendance included: the Department of Public Works (Solid Waste Services/ Recycling/Transportation), Park Atlanta, the City of Atlanta's Bureau of Code Enforcement-Housing Code; the Department of Watershed Management, the Atlanta Fire-Rescue Department, the Atlanta Police Department, the Mayor's Office of Sustainability, the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency and the Fulton County District Attorney's Office.



Councilmember Young said he looks forward to the quarterly meeting because it provides constituents with the opportunity to have their concerns addressed by various departments in one setting. The meetings allows residents to give vital input on District 3 issues that lead to elevating the quality of life of the community, to improving service delivery and drafting of legislation that will result in a positive impact on District 3 on the city as a whole.

Councilmember C.T. Martin Commemorates the Centennial of Rush Memorial Congregational Church



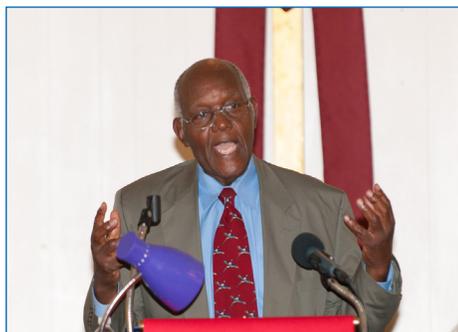
Atlanta City Councilmember C.T. Martin, along with Civil and Human Rights Legend Lonnie C. King, honored the leaders and congregation of historic Rush Memorial Congregational Church on September 15 in recognition of the church's 100th anniversary.

In the early 60's, at the height of Atlanta's civil rights movement, Rush Memorial served as a major focal point for community meetings. Often leaders in the civil rights movement would gather at Rush to pray and plan strategies. Rush Memorial, steeped in the rich civil rights tradition, also served as the main meeting place for the untied student movement groups when students were kicked off col-

lege campuses. This extraordinary church has served as a haven of rest for many weary workers in the struggle for freedom and equality.

During its century long existence, Rush Memorial Congregational Church has been the home church of several of Atlanta's most prominent pastors and members. Former pastors included the late Reverend Joseph E. Boone, a civil rights icon whose name now adorns the former Simpson Road; former State Senator Arthur Langford Jr., for whom Highway 166 is now named after; and Reverend James Bond, great grandfather of Councilmember Michael Julian Bond.

Rush Memorial's centennial celebration continues through the end of September.



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City Councilmember Michael Julian Bond commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the hiring of the city's first African-American Firefighters

Historic markers unveiled at Fire Station 16 this year

Atlanta City Councilmember Michael Julian Bond was joined by Mayor Kasim Reed, Atlanta Fire Rescue Chief Kelvin J. Cochran and Atlanta City Councilmember Ivory Lee Young Jr. in honoring Atlanta's first African-American firefighters at Fire Station 16.

the Council's Public Safety Committee. "It is important that the city commemorate the public safety contributions of African-American



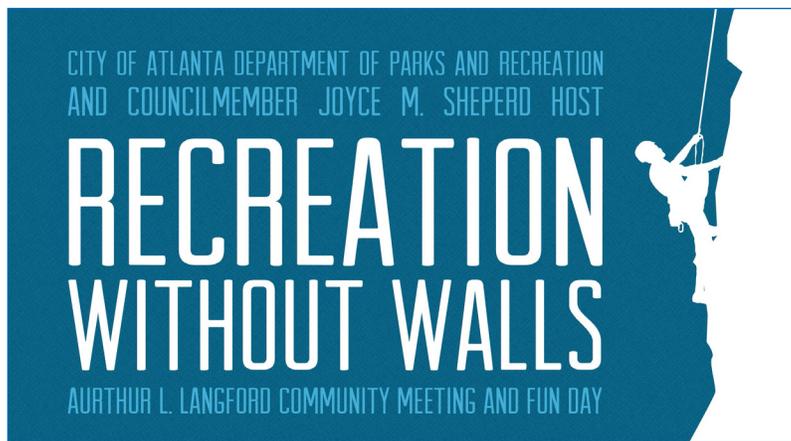
The city also honored its first seven African-American female firefighters who joined the department in 1977 and the late Theodore "Tiger" Flowers, an Atlanta resident who was the first African-American to win the world middleweight championship. Flowers lived in a 20-room Italian stucco mansion at 1048 Joseph E. Boone Boulevard until his death in 1927. The house was demolished in 1963 to make way for the construction of Fire Station 16.

Sixteen young African-American recruits joined the Atlanta Fire Department on April 1, 1963. Their hiring came after the late Mayor Ivan Allen responded to leadership in the Black community requesting that the department integrate. This historic action, spurred on by the activism of John Wesley Dobbs, was a first step towards the complete integration of the city's workforce.

firefighters, who not only protected our city but did so while having to fight for the simple respect of their colleagues. This honor on this day was chosen because there is little written about these men and women but they will never be forgotten for the sacrifices they made," said Bond, who hosted the event.

"The markers we are establishing here today are a lasting and fitting tribute to these pioneers, who most certainly endured hardships in breaking racial and gender barriers," said Mayor Kasim Reed. "Let it serve as a lasting reminder of where we've been, and where we always want to be: standing for justice, equality and doing the right thing."

"These brave individuals left an enormous legacy for generations to follow," said Bond, chairman of



On August 24, 2013, Councilmember Joyce M. Sheperd and the City of Atlanta's Department of Parks and Recreation hosted a community meeting and fun day entitled "Recreation Without Walls". During this informative get-together, the Atlanta Beltline presented a new design for the future use of the Arthur Langford Recreation Center. Throughout the meeting, the community was encouraged to provide input on the new design. This event which included youth friendly activities such as skateboarding, hula hoop, jump rope, and other outside activities for kids was extremely inspirational for the entire community.



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