



ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

News Release

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Burglar Bars, Check Cashing Services, Now Banned in Cascade Heights

ATLANTA- Atlanta City Councilmembers Keisha Lance Bottoms and C.T. Martin today announced new legislation which adds check cashing services and burglar bars to a list of prohibited businesses and security features in the Cascade Heights Neighborhood Commercial District.

The ordinance (**Z-15-67**) comes as an addition to the 1982 Atlanta Zoning Ordinance and in wake of Councilmember Bottoms' "Invest in Southwest" initiative, which was launched in 2015 and aims to promote community and economic investment in the southwest Atlanta.

The pre-existing Atlanta Zoning Ordinance prohibited nightclubs, speakers and amplified music located outside enclosed permanent structures, park-for-hire facilities on surface lots, pawn shops, and tattoo and body piercing establishments. The amendment adds "any establishment offering check cashing services [...] or loan money to the public except for any state or federally chartered bank, trust company, credit union, savings and loan association, or savings bank with deposits that are federally insured or loan money to the public except for any state or federally chartered bank, trust company, credit union, savings and loan association, or savings bank with deposits that are federally insured."

The amendment also regulates security materials on structures in the Cascade Heights Neighborhood Commercial District, prohibiting burglar bars, steel gates, and steel-roll down doors or shutters on the exterior of any establishment, when visible from any public or private street, mandates that interior security materials must allow no less than 80% visibility into the establishment, must be fully retractable during business hours, and requires vacant buildings and/or businesses operating without a valid business license to be in compliance with the new regulation within 90 days of its passage or the vacancy of the business.

“The Campbellton-Cascade Corridors Redevelopment Plan was adopted in 2006 by City Council as a guide for future development, and from that plan the Cascade Heights Neighborhood Commercial District was formed. I am proud that today, in the 10th year since the establishment of that plan, the City of Atlanta has renewed and reinforced its commitment to maintaining a balance of uses to create a vibrant and sustainable commercial district in Southwest Atlanta,” said Councilmember Bottoms.

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