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Proposed Acquisition of the Atlanta City Detention Center



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Overview

The City of Atlanta and Fulton County have a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between restorative justice and social change resulting in enhanced public safety. It is incumbent upon me to caution all stakeholders that failure to reach an agreement could have an adverse impact on public safety and criminal justice reform throughout metro Atlanta for years to come. Improving county jail conditions and partnering to alleviate overcrowding will result in improved services for residents of Fulton County as well as residents of all 15 cities within the county, in particular, those who reside within the City of Atlanta.



Fulton County Jail Situational Analysis

OVERCROWDING

Total Detainee Population **2,942**



Total Housing Capacity **2,591** beds



Lack of adequate bed space results in hundreds of detainees sleeping in "boats" on the jail floor. Acquisition of additional space will help to address this issue.



Fulton County Jail Situational Analysis

JAIL CONDITIONS

- 901 Rice Street Jail is a 32-year-old facility.
- South Annex Jail for women is a 22-year-old facility.
- Both detention facilities are in need of **capital improvements** to ensure a safer, more secure and more humane correctional environment.
- Recent Fulton County **jail tours** by Atlanta City Council Members, Fulton County Commissioners and other key stakeholders highlighted the need to address these issues.



Fulton County Jail Situational Analysis

DETAINEE HOUSING & COVID PROTOCOLS

Fulton County Jail detainees and female detainees at the South Annex Jail are currently housed on emergency lockdown status to allow for social distancing due to a shortage of bed space.

The Fulton County Jail was built to run indirect supervision, meaning an authority figure is present but not always seen or heard.

Additional space at ACDC would allow less restrictive lockdowns and for staff to run direct supervision.



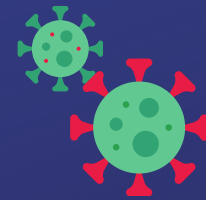
Photo credit: Credit: Elijah Nouvelle, AJC; March 2020



Fulton County Jail Situational Analysis

DETAINEE HOUSING & COVID PROTOCOLS

Recommendations for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in jails from "*Decarcerating Correctional Facilities during COVID-19: Advancing Health, Equity and Safety*"*



Best Practices:

1. House exposed detainees in **quarantine** area creating physical spacing and social distancing to mitigate potential spread prior to joining general population
2. Separate **COVID positive detainees** from the uninfected population
3. Maintain **CDC recommendations** for physical spacing by placing inmates individual cells

Currently, unable to do so due to lack of space.

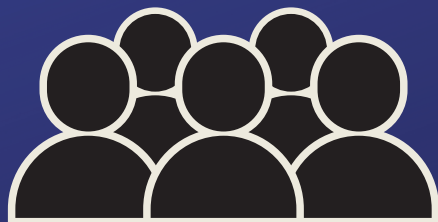


Fulton County Jail Situational Analysis

Did you know?

113%

The Fulton County Jail is currently operating at 113% capacity, which increases risk factors.



More facts and figures:

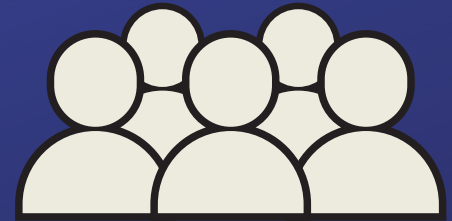
- 333 detainees & 84 staff have tested positive for **COVID-19** since March 2020
- Fulton County Jail is **not accredited** by the American Correctional Association (ACA)
- **17-year-old "Youthful Offenders"** accused of felony offenses are housed at the Rice Street facility
- **Female detainees** are housed at the South Annex Jail
- 901 Rice Street remains the **largest de facto mental health facility** in the metro Atlanta area



ACDC Situational Analysis

Total Housing Capacity: 1,314

Average Daily Population YTD 2021: 25



Total Incarcerations **decreased** ~70% over a 4 year period:

2017	30,300
2018	21,700
2019	20,100
2020	10,500



ACDC Situational Analysis



Municipal Court FTAs have increased 230% from 2015 to 2019*

*Source: City of Atlanta Municipal Court

Certain traffic offenses such as DUI, Driving on Suspended License and Leaving the Scene may **require jail time** and are currently housed at ACDC.

City ordinance violations are not required to be accepted by the county jail; however, a partnership could be arranged.



ACDC Situational Analysis

- ✓ Built in 1995, the Atlanta City Detention Center (ACDC) is a **26-year-old facility** in need of routine maintenance and repairs but is in otherwise **good condition**.
- ✓ ACDC received its ACA (American Correctional Association) accreditation with a **perfect score** of 100% for 10 consecutive years from 2010 - 2020.
- ✓ ACDC was built as a **direct supervision** facility.



Opportunities

Additional Bed Space



- Alleviate overcrowding
- **Direct Supervision**
- Rehouse **Youthful Offenders** from Rice Street
- Rehouse **Female Detainees** from South Annex Jail
- Specialized evidence-based **Mental Health Unit** to address the vast population of detainees in need of these services

PAT3 Reentry Program

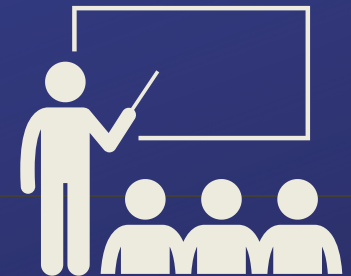
Revive the ground breaking PAT3 Reentry Program



Opportunities

Wraparound Services

Establish wraparound services to include vocational training and education, housing, community-based mental health services and case management to ensure successful reintegration



ACDC Employees

Hire and train all qualified current ACDC employees in good standing (127 current FCSO vacancies - sworn & civilian)



Opportunities



Cost Savings for City of Atlanta

By partnering with Fulton County, the City of Atlanta could save an estimated \$18mil, get out of the jail business while also underscoring the city's commitment to public safety to ensure services continue to be provided while not double-taxing residents of Atlanta & Fulton County.



Potential Risks

Municipal vs State Charges

Individuals who would ordinarily be charged with municipal offenses could now face state charges and more severe penalties, as was the case recently when protestors walked onto the highway and were arrested by Georgia State Patrol and taken to 901 Rice St.

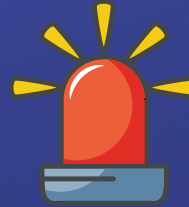


Signature Bonds & Cash Bail Reform

Blanket signature bonds are in place for certain non-violent offenses during COVID, but that is only temporary.



Potential Risks



Increased Arrests & Overcrowding

Metro Atlanta police departments and other law enforcement agencies are partnering with the FCSO to combat crime. A heavier law enforcement presence on the streets will likely lead to an increase in arrests, more detainees at the Fulton County Jail and more overcrowding.



Potential Risks



Public Perception

Ordinance modification that creates a "perceived free zone" for misdemeanor crime could be perceived by many as dangerous and irresponsible governance.

By not partnering with Fulton County to utilize ACDC as a detention facility, which would include innovative wrap around services and resources, would not only be nonresponsive to citizens' public safety concerns, it would imply the city is not serious about arresting and prosecuting criminals.



Thank you!



**WE ALL DO BETTER WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER.
OUR DIFFERENCES DO MATTER BUT OUR
COMMON HUMANITY MATTERS MORE.**

- BILL CLINTON



Questions



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