

Executive Order  
Office of the Mayor  
City of Atlanta

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 2024- 01  
BY THE MAYOR**

**AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TO AUTHORIZE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO IMMEDIATELY ALLOCATE AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FOUR MILLION SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FORTY DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$4,670,140.00) TO VARIOUS CITY DEPARTMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING PARTNERS FOR HOME WITH THE EXPANSION OF SHELTER SERVICES, WARMING CENTER OPERATIONS, ADDITIONAL SHELTER SITES, AND PROVIDE THE WRAPAROUND SERVICES AND SECURITY NEEDED TO GO ALONG WITH THOSE LOCATIONS; AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO TAKE ACTIONS TO CLEAN AND SAFEGUARD THE AREAS UNDERNEATH BRIDGES AND CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAY OVERPASSES FROM FUTURE RISKS TO PUBLIC SAFETY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DANGER FROM FIRE, AND INJURY, AND TO WORK IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DO SO WHERE NECESSARY; TO AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO VARIOUS CITY DEPARTMENTS TO SUPPORT THE ACTIONS OF THIS ORDER; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ANY AGREEMENTS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO EFFECTUATE THE ACTIONS AUTHORIZED HEREBY OR TO OTHERWISE COLLABORATE WITH CITY OF ATLANTA PARTNERS FOR THE PROVISION OF IMMEDIATE SHELTER AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES UTILIZING AREAS UNDERNEATH BRIDGES AND CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAY OVERPASSES AS LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS OR FOR THE STORAGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, it is a goal of my Administration to ensure that individuals and families in need within the City of Atlanta have access to shelter from the elements as they regain stability in their lives and seek permanent housing; and

**WHEREAS**, it is my desire for my administration to work with our partners and the Atlanta City Council to innovatively and swiftly deploy resources to provide individuals and families experiencing homelessness who are utilizing the areas underneath bridges and controlled access highway overpasses the support that they need and deserve; and

**WHEREAS**, during the coldest months of the year the threat of danger from fire and injury resulting from persons utilizing the areas underneath bridges and controlled access highway overpasses is acute; and

**WHEREAS**, accordingly there exists an immediate need to stabilize individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our city and whom are utilizing the areas underneath bridges and controlled access highway overpasses; and

**WHEREAS**, Partners for HOME (“PFH”) is a non-profit organization which brings together nonprofit, government, business and community leaders together to make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring in the City of Atlanta; and

**WHEREAS**, PFH acts as the Collaborative Applicant for the Atlanta Continuum of Care, (“CoC”), and the mission of PFH is to coordinate a comprehensive response system to end homelessness in the City of Atlanta; and

**WHEREAS**, the Atlanta CoC, led by PFH, has created an infrastructure to assess, navigate, and house individuals quickly; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has worked closely with PFH since April 2020 to successfully coordinate a comprehensive response and recovery effort to protect and house people experiencing homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Atlanta has an interest in maintaining the public safety and welfare of citizens of the City of Atlanta and its visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, under its police power, the City of Atlanta may take action to protect the health safety and general welfare of the public; and

**WHEREAS**, the areas underneath bridges and controlled access highway overpasses are neither designed nor maintained to serve as living accommodations or for the storage of personal property; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of the areas underneath bridges and controlled access highway overpasses as living accommodations or for the storage of personal property poses an immediate risk to public safety both to those persons so utilizing these areas, and to persons traversing thereover and otherwise utilizing the bridge or highway overpass for its intended purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the immediate risk to public safety resulting from persons utilizing the areas underneath bridges and controlled access highway overpasses as living accommodations or for the storage of personal property, includes but is not limited to danger from fire, and injury; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Atlanta has determined that it is in the best interest of the public safety and welfare of the citizens of and visitors to the City of Atlanta to employ various strategies which shall eliminate the need and ability for persons to utilize the areas underneath bridges and

controlled access highway overpasses as living accommodations or for the storage of personal property; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 2-182 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances, I may issue an executive order which applies to events of short duration, and which expires at the next meeting of the Atlanta City Council subsequent thereof unless ratified by a majority vote of the members present and voting; and

**WHEREAS**, I am hereby issuing an executive order to authorize the Chief Financial Officer to immediately allocate an amount not to exceed Four Million Six Hundred Seventy Thousand One Hundred Forty Dollars and Zero Cents (\$4,670,140.00) to various city departments for the purpose of supporting Partners for Home with the expansion of shelter services, warming center operations, additional shelter sites, and provide the wraparound services and security needed to go along with those locations and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to this executive order I am also directing the Commissioners of the City of Atlanta Department of Public Works and Atlanta Department of Transportation to take actions to clean and safeguard the areas underneath bridges and controlled access highway overpasses from future risks to public safety, including but not limited to danger from fire, and injury, and to work in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Transportation to do so where necessary; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer shall be authorized in accordance with this Order to take appropriate action to allocate funding necessary to support the actions of various departments pursuant to this order; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to this order, either I or my designee shall be authorized to execute any agreements necessary in order to effectuate the actions authorized hereby to otherwise collaborate with City of Atlanta partners for the provision of immediate shelter and housing solutions to individuals and families utilizing areas underneath bridges and controlled access highway overpasses as living accommodations or for the storage of personal property.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, ANDRE DICKENS, AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, HEREBY AUTHORIZE, ORDER AND DIRECT** as follows:

**SECTION 1:** That the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to immediately allocate an amount not to exceed Four Million Six Hundred Seventy Thousand One Hundred Forty Dollars and Zero Cents (\$4,670,140.00) to various City departments for the purpose of supporting partners for home with the expansion of shelter services, warming center operations, additional shelter sites, and provide the wraparound services and security needed to go along with those locations.

**SECTION 2:** That the Commissioners of the City of Atlanta Department of Public Works and Atlanta Department of Transportation to take actions to clean and safeguard the areas underneath bridges and controlled access highway overpasses from future risks to public safety, including but not limited to danger from fire, and injury, and to work in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Transportation to do so where necessary.

**SECTION 3:** That the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to take appropriate action to allocate funding necessary to various departments taken pursuant to this order.

**SECTION 4:** That pursuant to this order, either I or my designee shall be authorized to execute any agreements necessary in order to effectuate the actions authorized hereby or to otherwise collaborate with City of Atlanta partners for the provision of immediate shelter and housing solutions to individuals and families utilizing areas underneath bridges and controlled access highway overpasses as living accommodations or for the storage of personal property.

SO ORDERED, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2024.

  
Andre Dickens, Mayor

ATTESTED:

  
Municipal Clerk

Theresa C. Payne  
*Interim* Deputy Municipal Clerk