



DECEMBER 2025

THE EDGEWOOD CORRIDOR PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE



Final Report

Produced by the Office of Councilmember Liliana Bakhtiari



BACKGROUND

The Edgewood Corridor Public Safety Task Force (Task Force) was convened in response to a shooting that occurred within the Edgewood Corridor (Corridor) on July 28, 2025. That tragic incident resulted in the injury of ten (10) people and the death of Mr. Santos J. Wyatt.

In response to the July 28th incident, Mayor Andre Dickens increased police presence, intensified targeted enforcement, and conducted on-the-ground outreach to local businesses. Furthermore, Councilmember Liliana Bakhtiari authored legislation 25-R-3738 establishing the Task Force, unanimously adopted post-haste by the Atlanta City Council on August 4, 2025. These short-term actions were implemented to ensure that the events of the summer did not continue to escalate.

The members of the Task Force were chosen by the City's Chief Operating Officer, Chief of Police, City Councilmembers in Districts 1, 2, and 5, the Old Fourth Ward Neighborhood Association (O4WNA), Old Fourth Ward Business Association (O4WBA), NPU-M Public Safety Chair, and the Auburn Church Collaborative. These parties were identified and selected to represent the various communities of interest in the Corridor and were appointed by legislation 25-R-3797 on August 18, 2025.

The charge of the Task Force was to work expeditiously given the pressing nature of the subject material and to conclude its work by December 31, 2025. To that end, the Task Force met six (6) times prior to the publication of this report to discuss the issues, hear from City of Atlanta agencies regarding ongoing public safety efforts, review City of Atlanta data, draft and prioritize recommendations, and approve this Final Report.

This report presents the recommendations of the Task Force and was compiled to share the information with residents, business owners, and other stakeholders in the Corridor. It is the expressed view of the Task Force that the City of Atlanta should undertake all necessary steps to adopt the priority recommendations set forth herein and should further evaluate the feasibility of implementing the supplemental recommendations to advance lasting safety, stability, and accountability in the Corridor.



LIKE A PHOENIX FROM THE ASHES



LEGACY OF THE CORRIDOR

The Edgewood Corridor is a thriving business and residential district that overlaps the Sweet Auburn and Old Fourth Ward neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are at the heart of Atlanta's history and legacy. For the purposes of the Task Force, the studied area is bounded by Irwin Street NE to the north, Decatur Street SE to the south, Boulevard NE to the east, and Fort Street NE to the west.

In segregated post-Reconstruction Atlanta, Black Atlantans were predominately confined to the city's east side, specifically in, around, and along Auburn Avenue. Despite oppressive Jim Crow laws and active efforts to prevent economic mobility among Black Atlantans, Auburn Avenue began to thrive as a home to the city's growing Black middle class. Mr. John Wesley Dobbs, the unofficial "Mayor" of the area affectionately dubbed the Avenue "Sweet Auburn" in the 1920s.

The emergence of two Black-owned life insurance companies serving Black residents and the establishment of Citizens Trust Bank provided resources to Black entrepreneurs unable to receive credit from white-owned banks. These institutions enabled the development of thriving Black businesses and cemented Auburn Avenue as the economic, cultural, and religious center of Black Atlanta. By the 1950s Fortune magazine described Sweet Auburn as the "richest Negro street in the world."



The area surrounding the Corridor is home to several historic houses of worship including Ebenezer Baptist Church and Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church both of which have been serving the community for over 130 years. The leaders of these churches were actively involved in the early stages of the Civil Rights Movement; in the early 1900's Pastor Alfred Daniel Williams of Ebenezer was a charter member of the Atlanta chapter of the NAACP, and Pastor Harold Irvin Bearden of Big Bethel broadcast his sermons over the nation's first Black-owned radio station, WERD.

With such strong community connections and deep religious roots, it is no surprise that the Civil Rights movement took hold in Sweet Auburn. Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born at 501 Auburn Avenue, and, like his father and grandfather before him, went on to lead at Ebenezer Baptist Church. To date, Dr. King's childhood home and the pulpit from which he preached remain two of Atlanta's most visited historical sites, alongside the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Park. Unfortunately, like many other Black communities, Sweet Auburn and the Old Fourth Ward were impacted by systemic disinvestment and neglect through the 1970s and 80s. While the King Center and other Civil Rights monuments attract over half a million visitors a year, much of that business does not flow out to the remainder of the Corridor.

The area has also long been home to a thriving nightlife community, cemented by the Top Hat Club which hosted some of the most renowned Black performers of mid-century, and today that history lives on. Edgewood Avenue is known by many as a nightlife destination, an area full of life, entertainment, and community. But for the residents of the Corridor and the surrounding neighborhoods, the area is much more than just its nightlife.

While the Corridor has been challenged by violence that accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a strong desire within the community to see it elevated in a manner reflective of its storied history. Sweet Auburn has always been a melting pot, a place where dreamers came to flourish, and a home to some of the City's greatest leaders. The Corridor deserves a future that honors its past.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Within the boundaries established for this Task Force, the Corridor remains a predominantly Black neighborhood, even as surrounding areas have experienced significant demographic shifts over recent decades. As of 2025, the Corridor is home to 2,155 residents: 72% of whom identify as Black, 17% white, and 11% as another race or ethnicity. The median age in the Corridor is thirty-five, slightly higher than the City of Atlanta's median age of thirty-four.

Young people under the age of twenty-five make up approximately 27% of the Corridor's population. Educational attainment among this group lags behind citywide levels, with about 25% having attained higher education, compared to 48% across Atlanta. These disparities are reflected in household income. Nearly half, 46%, of Corridor households live below the federal poverty line. At the same time, the vast majority, 92%, of residents are renters, underscoring a stark imbalance between a median renter income of approximately \$16,000 and a median home price exceeding \$518,000.

While most residents commute to work by car, roughly one-quarter rely on walking, bicycling, or public transit. The heavy reliance on non-automotive transportation underscores both the accessibility advantages of the Corridor's location near downtown and the economic challenges faced by many residents.

Discussions within the Task Force highlighted the unique character of the Corridor, its deep cultural roots, strong neighborhood identity, and the central role its locally owned businesses play in Atlanta's broader nightlife and creative economy. Members noted that, while new commercial and residential development has increased property values, these changes have also amplified concerns around affordability, displacement, and equitable reinvestment.

The Task Force emphasized the importance of balancing public safety and quality-of-life initiatives with economic inclusion and neighborhood preservation. Members agreed that any policy interventions or enforcement activities within the Corridor should be informed by local data, tailored to the community's socioeconomic realities, and coordinated across departments to avoid duplicative efforts.



TASK FORCE PURPOSE

The purpose of the Task Force was to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to deter crime and enhance public safety along Edgewood Avenue, within the Sweet Auburn community, and throughout the Old Fourth Ward. The Task Force was also intended to serve as a response to previously convened cohorts who had failed to adequately address the challenges of the Corridor. The Members of the Task Force consistently expressed a strong desire that the recommendations produced by the Task Force would provide a concrete and clear path forward. To guide the work of the Task Force, the body ratified its mission statement September 16, 2025.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Task Force is to develop and implement a community-driven, actionable, and measurable plan that ensures a safer, more vibrant Edgewood Avenue corridor. Our priorities include:

- Enhancing public safety and improving the perception of safety at all hours to support a walkable, welcoming environment.
- Celebrating culture and history through inclusive opportunities that honor the Corridor's legacy while engaging everyone and visitors of all ages and all hours.
- Revitalizing underused properties by leveraging methods and tools to attract diverse businesses that serve a broad demographic.
- Fostering community connection by supporting a range of housing options that are accessible and affordable to all.



TASK FORCE OVERVIEW

The Task Force was required by its establishment to convene no fewer than six (6) times before December 31, 2025. The City of Atlanta, Councilmember Bakhtiari, and all members of the Task Force agreed that the issues facing the Corridor are urgent, and that the truncated timeline was the best way to not lose forward momentum. There was a repeated concern that a process that lasted longer than six (6) months would likely stall any positive progress towards action.

Serving as members of the Edgewood Corridor Public Safety Task Force were:

- Ms. LaChandra Burks, appointed by the Chief Operating Officer
- Mr. Tom Boyle, appointed by City Council District 2
- Bishop Robert Graham, appointed by the Auburn Church Collaborative
- Ms. Dorthey Hurst, appointed by the NPU-M Public Safety Chair
- Mr. Johnny Martinez, appointed by City Council District 5
- Ms. Sarah Oak Kim, appointed by the O4WBA
- Mr. Jason Parker, appointed by the O4WNA
- Mr. Brad Schweers, appointed by City Council District 1
- Major Andrea Webster, appointed by the Chief of the Atlanta Police Department

Serving as facilitator to the Task Force and lead author of this Final Report was Ms. Alex Fennell, Chief Policy Officer and Director of Legislative Affairs for Councilmember Liliana Bakhtiari.



TASK FORCE MEETINGS

ALL TASK FORCE MEETINGS WERE PUBLICLY NOTICED AND OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. BELOW IS A SUMMARY OF THE CONTENT AND OUTCOMES OF EACH OF THE TASK FORCE'S MEETINGS.

MEETING 1 | AUGUST 20, 2025

The Task Force launched with a kickoff meeting featuring a welcome from District 5 Atlanta City Councilmember Liliana Bakhtiari. Several configurations of stakeholders have met over the last decade to address similar public safety issues, with limited tangible success. Task Force members emphasized a strong desire to produce actionable recommendations, rather than just “big picture” ideas.

Members were led through an exercise to imagine “What would the Corridor look like when all our concerns are addressed?” Several common themes emerged, including the need for a general “culture of safety” that touched on addressing public safety beyond enforcement. Several members also reiterated the need for the Corridor to cater to all demographics, especially families and young people. Members felt strongly that the community of the Corridor should be uplifted and preserved while still honoring the legacy of the area by continuing to be inviting and welcoming to all.

The meeting culminated in generating a list of data requests from the City of Atlanta to support the Task Force’s work.

MEETING 2 | SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

The second meeting of the Task Force began with a codification of the mission statement. The mission statement was drafted by the Task Force facilitator to reflect the goals and desired outcomes raised in the first meeting. Task Force members made several suggestions and edits to the draft mission statement. Some members asserted that the Task Force should remain focused on public safety and not stray too far from that mandate, and others emphasized how public safety requires more than police and enforcement response, and that connected, healthy communities support increased public safety.

The members then engaged in a robust debate, raising all possible proposals to improve neighborhood safety. Fifty-six (56) proposals were collected during the meeting, and another thirteen (13) suggestions were added in the weeks following the meeting. All ideas were categorized based on whether they could be completed in the Short-Term (0 to 6 Months), Medium-Term (6 Months to 2 Years), or Long-Term (>2 years). All suggestions were collected regardless of feasibility, cost, or legality.



CITY OF ATLANTA DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS | SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

The Task Force discussed the City of Atlanta's separation of powers and evaluated which branch of government is best positioned to implement various initiatives. The Atlanta City Council enacts legislation that establishes the framework for municipal governance and develops policies to guide municipal operations. The executive branch, led by the Mayor of Atlanta, oversees all City departments, enforces laws, manages daily operations, and determines the allocation of resources. The Task Force reviewed all proposals from the previous meeting and classified each as either a legislative or administrative initiative.

The Task Force then received presentations from several City departments. City Solicitor Raines Carter outlined how the Solicitor's Office addresses Code violations, explaining that enforcement actions escalate in severity based on the frequency and seriousness of offenses. He described the process by which a property may be designated a nuisance and subjected to substantial penalties for repeated incidents of violence. Solicitor Carter added that many repeat offenders ultimately enter into consent agreements, which function similarly to guilty pleas, or face injunctive actions if they fail to achieve compliance.

Lieutenant Craig Burell highlighted the extensive work of the Office of Licenses and Permits. Their team conducted two full reviews of all business licenses along the Corridor to ensure compliance in 2025; one of these reviews was undertaken in response to the events of July 28. Lieutenant Burell detailed ongoing initiatives to train Atlanta Police Department (APD) officers on their authority to enforce illegal vending ordinances without requiring intervention from Licenses and Permits. Lieutenant Burell also described the Department's spot-check and undercover operations targeting compliance among liquor license holders.

Director Phillana Williams of the Mayor's Office of Film, Entertainment, and Nightlife reported on the Office's commitment to supporting Atlanta's nightlife industry. The Office conducts over 1,500 business check-ins annually to provide information and resources. Director Williams also discussed a proposal to pilot a nightlife ambassador program in the Corridor as early as January 2026, pending Executive approval.

Director Marcus Walker of the Mayor's Office of Violence Reduction (MOVR) shared that the Office was created to coordinate a comprehensive effort to reduce violence through holistic community-based intervention. He went on to describe the Office's use of uniformed and plainclothes "violence interrupters." These personnel are not sworn officers but engage directly within communities to defuse conflicts and interrupt cycles of violence at their source.

Representatives from the Atlanta Fire & Rescue Department (AFRD) reviewed their operational procedures to ensure public safety and regulatory compliance. AFRD conducts twice-monthly inspections to monitor occupancy limits, lighting conditions, and the display of required permits in bars, lounges, clubs, and high-risk restaurants. The Department also retains authority to disperse any assembly that exceeds a building's maximum capacity.



MEETING 3 | OCTOBER 15, 2025

Prior to the meeting, repetitive draft proposals were consolidated, unclear proposals were clarified, and deliverables were tailored to ensure that they were actionable and measurable as demanded by the Task Force's mission statement. The draft list was circulated to the Task Force members and edited based on their feedback. Summaries of the data requested by the Task Force were shared with members on October 5, 2025.

Task Force members engaged in a review of the draft recommendation list, and several edits were made to refine the list. Members then voted to adopt the list as the basis for prioritization. During the prioritization process, each member was able to select three (3) short-term proposals, five (5) medium-term proposals, and two (2) long-term proposals for the final recommendation list. The most often selected options were categorized as priority recommendations, the options that were not selected were eliminated from the final recommendation list, and those with limited selections are reflected in the "supplemental recommendations" portion of this report. Members then engaged in a reflection on how well the priority recommendation list reflected the task force's mandate and values.

The meeting closed with a discussion of the content and themes for the Final Report.

MEETING 4 | NOVEMBER 5, 2025

A draft report was shared with Task Force members in advance of the meeting. Several members shared notes and comments which were reflected in a discussion draft. The meeting opened with a conversation around whether members felt that the draft accurately captured the discussions and the work of the Task Force. Members shared that they felt it did and were pleased to see that the draft uplifted the history of the Corridor and that the meeting summaries provided needed context as some government reports do not make it clear what actual work task forces undertook during their meetings.

The Task Force then discussed line-by-line edits to the draft. The majority of edits were copy-edits or edits for clarification. There were several motions to amend the ordering or wording of several of the final recommendations. Two motions passed: one to move the priority recommendation addressing the establishment of the nightlife ambassador program to be completed in the medium-term, and a second to amend the supplemental recommendation regarding vacant properties to instead discuss vacant lots. A third motion to move the supplemental recommendation concerning penalties for food truck compliance to the short-term implementation timeline did not pass. The discussion draft was preserved with comments and amendments.



MEETING 5 | NOVEMBER 12, 2025

The Task Force reviewed the Final Report before the meeting and shared proposed corrections. The body then collectively reviewed the edits. A motion was made to replace the naming of APD with "the City" as the enforcer of the the Party House ordinance discussed in the priority recommendations. The motion passed. The Task Force then voted to adopt the Final Report with the agreed upon alterations. There were two votes against the Final Report based on opposition to the inclusion of the recommendation to impose a 6-month moratorium on new alcohol vending licenses in the Corridor.

MEETING 6 | DECEMBER 16, 2025

The Task Force held its final meeting in the Edgewood Corridor at the Sun ATL Gallery. During the session, Councilmember Bakhtiari's office outlined the anticipated timeline for the release of the Final Report and shared draft legislation that the Councilmember authored and intends to introduce in January 2026.

Members emphasized the need for sustained, inclusive community engagement to maintain momentum and ensure that the City effectively implements the recommended initiatives, particularly those requiring capital investment or Mayoral directive. In response, Councilmember Bakhtiari's Office committed to hosting at least two (2) public engagement sessions following publication of this Final Report.

The meeting concluded with closing remarks from Councilmember Bakhtiari, who reaffirmed her commitment to advancing the Task Force's priorities and expressed heartfelt appreciation to members for their dedicated and impactful service.



TASK FORCE DATA REQUESTS

Task Force members generated a list of data requests, and all data was compiled in October 2025. These requests were fulfilled by the Atlanta Police Department (APD), the Department of City Planning (DCP), the Office of Councilmember Liliana Bakhtiari, and included the following:

Liquor License Holders and Compliance Checks

- There are currently twenty-seven (27) businesses holding liquor licenses within the Corridor, all of which are active and in good standing.
- In the past two years, twenty-five (25) licensing compliance checks were conducted, resulting in seven citations for violations.

Enforcement and Arrest Information

- The greatest concentration of police callouts occurred between 11:00PM and 1:00AM, with peak volume, approximately 750 calls, recorded between 11:00PM and midnight over the past year.
- Nearly half of all individuals arrested were between 25 and 34 years old, while approximately one quarter were between 18 and 24.
- The vast majority of arrested offenders resided in ZIP code 30312; the remainder lived in ZIP codes 30303 and 30308.
- The three addresses with the highest number of arrests within the past year were:
 - 367 Edgewood Avenue, known by the enterprise CRU Edgewood
 - 400 Edgewood Avenue, known by the enterprise Edgewood Food Mart
 - 330 Edgewood Avenue, known by the enterprise Hendrix Bourbon and Cigar Bar, a.k.a. Palm Beach
- The APD Records Management System (RMS) does not include a category for properties identified as “party houses.” As a result, the system does not track 911 or 311 calls, citations, or arrests specifically associated with those incidents.
- Code enforcement records show forty (40) violations issued within the past year.

Edgewood Corridor development patterns included as Appendix A and all other data requests compiled as Appendix B.



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the prioritization process, the Task Force generated a list of ten (10) priority recommendations to be implemented in the short-term, medium-term, and long-term. The Task Force intended the time frames outlined in the recommendations to signal the time necessary to complete the deliverables rather than a time to begin the work.

SHORT-TERM (0 TO 6 MONTHS)

1 **Audit and Install Signage on the Corridor**

Conduct a joint audit of the Corridor by APD and ATLDOT to assess the presence and condition of signage necessary to enforce City and State laws. The audit should identify areas where additional signage, including but not limited to “No Cruising,” “No Graffiti,” “No Illegal Vending,” and “No Illegal Parking,” would aid enforcement efforts.

During late-night hours, the Corridor experiences significant disruptions from traffic congestion and unlawful street activity. Vehicles frequently block traffic or “cruise,” impeding movement along Avenue. Unlicensed vendors, including those selling alcohol, crowd sidewalks and contribute to unsafe conditions. APD advised that signage plays a crucial role in its enforcement capabilities, as certain ordinances, such as cruising prohibitions, can only be enforced in proximity to posted signs. This initiative will ensure signage is placed strategically to strengthen enforcement while avoiding unnecessary or redundant installations.

2 **Impose a Temporary Moratorium on New Liquor Licenses**

Several members of the Task Force expressed concerns that the area just needs a moment to “catch its breath” before new businesses selling alcohol are licensed. The Task Force recognizes businesses that sell alcohol are not necessarily sources of challenges in the Corridor; the majority of restaurants and bars operate legally and are compliant. These establishments are woven into the fabric and culture of the Corridor and make great neighbors.

The moratorium would allow for other action steps targeting bad actors to be implemented before adding new bars or restaurants to the Corridor. Six (6) months was determined to be an appropriate time without limiting future business opportunities on the Corridor or interfering with businesses planning to open for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The moratorium would not apply to businesses with existing alcohol licenses, any businesses that are currently seeking alcohol licenses, those that begin the licensure process before the moratorium takes effect, or permits for special events or festivals.



3 Implement the Corridor Camera Plan

Cameras in strategic locations have been shown to reduce criminal activity, improve enforcement actions, and support investigations of criminal activity. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Atlanta worked with Sweet Auburn community members and the Atlanta Police Foundation to develop an improved camera plan for the Corridor that has yet to be implemented. The camera plan will be financed by incumbered 2015 Renew Atlanta funds. Implementing this camera plan will mirror the crime-reduction efforts that have proven to be effective in several other Atlanta neighborhoods.

MEDIUM-TERM (6 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS)

4 Launch the Nightlife Ambassador Pilot Program

Current economic conditions have placed significant strain on business owners. Members of the Task Force learned from the Mayor's Office of Film, Entertainment, and Nightlife that nightlife establishments across the city have experienced a decline in traffic over the past year. This downturn has forced some owners to cut corners or fall short of compliance to reduce costs, while others may be noncompliant due to limited knowledge of city and state requirements or a lack of resources.

At the Task Force meeting on September 24, 2025, the Mayor's Office of Film, Entertainment, and Nightlife presented a proposal for a new Nightlife Ambassador Program. This initiative would build upon the Department's ongoing efforts to share information and resources with nightlife business owners by placing City representatives directly on the Corridor during peak hours.

The program's ambassadors would provide on-site assistance to nightlife businesses, deliver training, distribute compliance resources, and coordinate with City departments to address concerns promptly. By maintaining an active City presence on weekends and evenings, the pilot program would aim to promote voluntary compliance, improve the patron experience, and strengthen relationships between businesses and City representatives

5 Revise Licensing Standards and Penalties

The Task Force recommends updating Chapters 10 and 30 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances to modernize licensing processes, fee schedules, and enforcement penalties.

Many provisions relating to alcohol licensing have not been revised since the 1980s and no longer serve as effective deterrents to repeat violations. While the Task Force supports promptly updating fees and penalties to encourage compliance, members recognize that a comprehensive overhaul of the Chapter will require broader engagement.



5 **Revise Licensing Standards and Penalties Cont.**

This process should include the Atlanta Technical Advisory Group (ATAG), business owners, community members, law enforcement, the courts, and relevant city departments to ensure the resulting reforms promote responsible business operations while supporting corridor vitality. Similarly, business and food truck licensing, governed by Chapter 30, contain provisions that lack sufficient penalties to ensure timely renewal and ongoing compliance.

The Task Force found that updating these sections could encourage businesses to maintain current licenses and deter food trucks from operating illegally in areas where they obstruct traffic or disrupt neighborhood activity.

6 **Develop Restorative Justice and Youth Violence Reduction Initiatives**

The Task Force recognizes that public safety is not facilitated solely through arrests, citations, and punishment. While a fine or arrest may be minor for some, those actions may have traumatic or life-altering impacts for many particularly justice-impacted individuals. The demographic data for the Corridor was a surprise to many on the Task Force, showing that most arrests in the Corridor are of local residents not of individuals coming from other parts of the city or metro.

Investing in restorative justice practices offers an alternative to carceral outcomes for young people involved in minor offenses. Instead of seeking to incarcerate or punish residents of the Corridor, these initiatives would provide positive avenues and opportunities for those at risk of engaging in criminal activity through collaboration between the courts, law enforcement, and community groups.

7 **Clarify Enforcement of Party House Ordinances**

The City of Atlanta at large has been plagued by what are known as “party houses.” These are residences that are used for large gatherings and events which charge admission to the public and essentially act as unlicensed bars or after-hours venues.

In April of 2025 the Atlanta City Council passed ordinance 24-O-1694 to prohibit these types of establishments across all residential districts. The Corridor is home to several well-established unlicensed “party houses” that allow individuals to keep drinking after bars have closed. The Corridor is also subject to complex mixed-use zoning that has made it difficult for the City to enforce the party house ordinance due to a lack of certainty regarding its applicability to the Corridor. Clarifying the applicability of the Ordinance will enable the City to consistently enforce the Code.

In the event that the Code is ambiguous or unenforceable, the Task Force recommends that the neighborhood explicitly ban “party houses” locally as several other neighborhoods have done.



8 Audit and Apply Blight Tax to Vacant Properties

The Corridor is home to several properties that have remained vacant for a number of years. Vacant and underutilized properties are often home to dumping, squatting, drug sales, and other illegal activity. The City of Atlanta recognized that these types of properties contribute to neighborhood decay and that these properties could be sites for commercial investment or additional housing. In response to these issues, the Atlanta City Council passed an ordinance 24-O-1370 in August of 2024 authorizing a Blight Tax to encourage property owners to remediate or sell their blighted properties.

Under this ordinance, the City of Atlanta may increase property taxes on designated blighted parcels by up to twenty-five times the standard rate. For the tax to take effect, a property must first be formally designated as blighted following a City inspection.

The Task Force recognizes there are several properties that are likely blighted and proposes an audit of the Corridor to start the process of attaching the tax to these properties to encourage their development.

LONG-TERM (> 2 YEARS)

9 Evaluate the Feasibility of an APD Mini-Precinct

One of the primary concerns of the Task Force is a prevailing concern that APD is under-resourced in Zone 6, both broadly and within the Corridor. To address this challenge, there is a strong desire to increase the Police Department's capacity and enable them to respond quickly to emerging threats.

The Task Force recommends exploring the feasibility of establishing an APD mini-precinct or "touch-down" location along the Corridor to increase police presence, improve response times, and strengthen community ties. This evaluation should be conducted jointly between APD and the Mayor's Office, with findings based on anticipated operational benefits, logistical needs, and available staffing capacity.

Other neighborhoods, including Buckhead and Midtown, have successfully implemented similar models to enhance localized enforcement. The Task Force emphasizes, however, that adequate staffing will be essential to ensure that any new precinct expansion effectively enhances public safety rather than redistributing limited resources.



10 **Establish a Satellite Office for the Manager of Nightlife**

Mayor Andre Dickens established the Manager of Nightlife within the Mayor's Office of Film, Entertainment, and Nightlife. This role supports nightlife businesses and coordinates with City agencies to address compliance, safety, and operational needs. In cities with similar positions, the "Night Mayor" is stationed directly within active nightlife districts rather than solely at City Hall, allowing for more immediate, localized engagement.

The Task Force recommends establishing a satellite location within the Corridor. A local presence would enable real-time engagement with business owners, residents, and City agencies during peak hours, improve communication, and facilitate more effective coordination of nightlife management. This approach mirrors successful models in other cities, ensuring that issues are addressed promptly and proactively.



CONCLUSION

ATLANTA: A GROUP PROJECT

Mayor Andre Dickens has often touted that “Atlanta is a group project,” and the work of the Task Force demonstrates the truth of that refrain. Task Force members repeatedly emphasized that a community with such rich history as Sweet Auburn deserves better. The neighborhood wants a place that is opening and inviting to all visitors and residents, and to achieve that the Corridor must be safe for all those who pass through it at all hours of the day.

The priority recommendations of the Task Force call upon the Atlanta Police Department; the Mayor’s Office of Film, Entertainment, and Nightlife; the Atlanta Department of Transportation; the Mayor’s Office of Violence Reduction; and the Municipal Courts to take concerted action.

Implementing these recommendations requires decisive action from the Mayor of the City of Atlanta in directing Departments to implement proposed initiatives and allocate the necessary resources to invest in the future of the Corridor. The Atlanta City Council is also needed to act to clarify or amend legislation governing enforcement in the Corridor and allocating funds to implement the camera plan. It will be a team effort to improve the perception of safety in the Corridor, preserve the nightlife businesses, encourage development of new businesses and restaurants, and invite patrons and visitors of all ages. Members of the Task Force are confident that through collaboration and communication, the Corridor can once again be a place where residents, business owners, and visitors move together with dignity, accountability, and mutual respect.



SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

SHORT-TERM (0 TO 6 MONTHS)

- Increase Licenses and Permits spot checks particularly between 2AM and 4AM.
- Develop a parking plan that includes the installation and enforcement of on-street metered parking during weekend and overnight hours, the closing of illegal parking lots, and potential City of Atlanta acquisition and maintenance of illegal parking lots for public use.
- Install License Plate Readers at strategic locations determined by APD and DOT.
- Assess the needs of current unhoused residents and determine what tools would be most effective to eliminate homelessness in the Corridor.

MEDIUM-TERM (6 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS)

- Implement the use of street sweepers in coordination with APD at closing time on weekends.
- Increase enforcement to curb illegal vending by all APD officers (not only the License and Permit division).
- Implement designated ride-share drop-off and pickup zones.
- Update event permitting standards to require advertised events charging an entry fee to apply for a permit and submit a security plan to obtain the permit.
- Explore implementing dedicated loading zones to improve traffic flow.
- Review and revise the penalties for violating the vending in public regulations to deter illegal food truck vending on the Corridor. City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances §§ 30-1401; 1433.
- Collaborate with community stakeholders to develop a long-term development vision for the corridor.

LONG-TERM (>2 YEARS)

- Increase funding and staffing for APD Zone 6 to support public safety initiatives in the corridor.
- Invest in the development of deeply affordable and supportive housing targeting residents experiencing homelessness and/or earning below 50% Area Median Income.
- Counteract disinvestment by exploring tax incentives to encourage development and penalties for long blighted or disinvested vacant lots.



DECEMBER 2025

APPENDIX B: DATA SUMMARIES



Edgewood Corridor Public Safety Task Force

Data Request Summary

Prepared October 5, 2025

Produced by the Office of Councilmember Liliana Bakhtiari



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DEMOGRAPHICS OVERVIEW

The Edgewood Corridor, within the boundaries established for this Task Force, remains a neighborhood that is majority Black although surrounding areas have seen significant demographic shifts over the last decades. The Corridor has a slightly higher median age (35.2) than the City of Atlanta (33.8). About a quarter of people living in the corridor are young people under 25 (27.2%).

Most of those young people have attained higher education at about half the rate of the City of Atlanta as a whole (25% and 48% respectively). This trend is reflected in the income levels of the residents of the Corridor. Nearly half the households in the Corridor fall below the Federal poverty line (46.21%). There is a stark contrast between the median income of households who are overwhelmingly renters (\$16,026) and the median home price (\$518,818). While most individuals travelled to work by car, a quarter of residents either walk, take public transportation, or cycle to work.

Population

- Total Population: 2,155
- Women 51.93%; Men 48.07%

Racial Demographics

- Black population: 72.34%
- White population: 17.03%
- Asian population: 3.34%
- Hispanic population: 3.11%
- Other Race: 1.59%

Households

- Average household size: 1.48
- Median household income: 16,026
- Households below poverty level: 46.21%
- Median home value: \$581,818

Age

- Median Age: 35.2
- Children under 19: 14.76%
- Young adults 20-24: 12.48%
- Seniors over 65: 15.08%

Housing Types

- Total housing units: 1,447
- Owner-occupied (homeowner) units: 5.76% (79 units)
- Renter-occupied: 94.24% (1293 units)
- Vacant housing units: 5.18% (75 units)
- Housing units in buildings with 50+ units: 60.69%
- Housing units with 1 detached unit (single-family home): 1.04%

Educational Attainment

- Population at 25 with a high school diploma: 30.21%
- Population at 25 with some college: 15.56%
- Population at 25 with a bachelor's degree: 25%
- Population at 25 with an advanced degree: 9.96%

Transportation (Commute)

- Drove alone: 41.84%
- Public transportation: 15.93%
- Walked: 8.81%
- Cycled: .26%
- Work at home: 18.65%



ALCOHOL LICENSING DEFINITIONS

This section provides a plain language summary of definitions from the relevant code section (§ 10-1) prepared for discussion. The legal definitions from the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances are current as of November 2025 and linked in the sources section below.

Bar

- Minimum Capacity 25 people – maximum 100 people
- Does not meet the below definitions of restaurant, nightclub, lounge, farm winery, convention center, hotel, brewpub, open air café or sidewalk café
- Primary purpose is selling alcohol to be consumed onsite
- Must also serve food

Brewpub

- Beer/ malt beverages brewed on premises
- Must also be an “eating establishment” with minimum 50% of gross sales from food sales
- Must acquire separate license to sell beer to be consumed offsite

Convention Center

- Premises operated exclusively for events like conventions and trade shows as well as large social gatherings
- Must be available to public or private groups for a fee
- May not provide adult entertainment

Distance

- Measured in a straight line from the nearest route from the front door of the place where alcohol is sold to the relevant building in the distance requirement.

Entertainment

- Live performance by a musician, dancer, or other performer on the premises where alcohol is sold

Farm Winery

- Domestic winery where a substantial portion of land area is used to cultivate fruit for wine production



- Makes at least 40% of annual fruit production grown in Georgia
- Produces less than 100,000 gallons per year
- Certified and licensed as a farm winery by the State of Georgia

Hotel

- Must serve food
- 50 or more rooms with sleeping accommodations offered for a fee to travelers/guests
- Dining area has a minimum capacity of 40 people
- May grant franchises for lounges, restaurants, or nightclubs which are considered part of the hotel's liquor license

Lounge

- Separate room connected to restaurant or hotel or in an airport
- All seating in open view
- Minimum capacity of 50 people (exceptions for airport lounges)
- If on another floor or not connected to another establishment then another license is required

Nightclub

- Minimum capacity of 100 people
- All booths and tables in open view
- Music, dancing, or entertainment are conducted alongside the sale of alcohol
- Principal business shall be entertainment
- Must have air conditioning

Open Air Café

- Must serve food during all hours of operations
- Minimum capacity of 40 people
- Located in pedestrian area of a shopping and retail entertainment center (area with 5 or more retail establishments, 3 or more restaurants, and a minimum of 10,000 square feet)

Restaurant

- Must be an "eating establishment" with minimum 50% of gross sales from food sales
- Minimum capacity of 40 people
- At least one meal per day must be served six days a week (with exceptions for holidays and extenuating circumstances)
- Serving food must be the principal business with the serving alcohol incidental to serving food

Sidewalk Café

- Must serve food during all hours of operations
- Located in a mixed-use development with at least 50,000 square feet of retail space, 100,000 square feet of office space, and 300 residential units or has a right-of-way dining permit
- Must comply with the City's noise ordinance



ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT ORDINANCES

This section provides a plain language summary of relevant code sections (§§ 10-8, 10-9, 10-11) prepared for discussion. The code sections from the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances are current as of November 2025 and linked in the sources section below.

Drinking in Public

- It is unlawful to drink on any street, sidewalk, alleyway or open area owned and operated by the City of Atlanta.
- Alcohol consumption is not permitted on MARTA premises or in City parks.

Disorderly While Under the Influence

- It is unlawful to be disorderly on streets sidewalks or other public places.
- Disorderly conduct is defined as doing one of the following while intoxicated:
 - Acting recklessly and creating a risk of harm to themselves or others
 - Defecating or urinating in public (including halls or elevators of public or commercial buildings)
 - Using fighting words or provoking others
 - Panhandling
 - Acting violently and creating a risk to others or property
 - Lying down or obstructing pedestrian or vehicular traffic; or entrance or exit to a building and refusing to move when ordered to by a police officer
 - Using profane or vulgar language on public streets, sidewalks or other public places
- A peace officer may send an intoxicated person to their home or treatment instead of incarcerating them.
- An offender may face imprisonment up to 180 days or a fine up to \$1,000.
- Habitual offenders (more than 3 offenses in 12 months) may be deemed an habitual alcohol user and probated to outpatient treatment for up to 180 days.

Amplified Sound

- An individual/business with a liquor license may not have amplified sounds:
 - Within 500 feet of single family homes
 - After 12:00 midnight



ALCOHOL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS AND DENIAL PROCEDURES

This section provides a plain language summary of relevant code sections (§§ 10-34, 10-55, 10-57) prepared for discussion. The code sections from the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances are current as of November 2025 and linked in the sources section below.

License Posting and Display Requirement

- A license must be posted and displayed in a conspicuous place.
- It shall contain the following information:
 - The type of license the business has
 - The permitted days and hours of operation

Grounds for Nonacceptance of an Application

- A license application will not be accepted if the person applying for a license has had license for a similar type of business denied or revoked in the last 2 years.

Grounds for Denial of a New License

- An application for a new license shall be denied if the application or evidence before the LRB shows that the applicant:
 - Is of bad moral character
 - Has a bad reputation in the community
 - Lacks the mental capacity to run the business
 - Has had a license previously suspended or revoked (can be waived if more than 2 years have passed)
 - Applies for a nightclub permit without sufficient parking
 - Has violated any law or regulation for that business in the last 5 years
 - Is related to a stockholder, manager, or owner of an alcohol distributor
 - Has engaged in discrimination or violated the City's human relations ordinance
 - Does not have adequate parking
 - Has a distance exemption and has failed to provide receipts of gross revenue from alcohol sales to the LRB



ALCOHOL LICENSE REVOCAATION PROCEDURE

This section provides a plain language summary of relevant code sections (§§ 10-109, 10-109.2, 10-110) prepared for discussion. The code sections from the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances are current as of November 2025 and linked in the sources section below.

A license may be denied, suspended, or revoked; or a fine may be levied after a public hearing where there is a finding of “due cause. There are several events that can trigger the hearing (listed below). Before the hearing, the City must give the license holder 5 days’ written notice and explain the basis for the hearing. A notification of this hearing is also sent to the Councilmember of the district, all at-at large members of the City Council, the chairperson and vice chairperson of the NPU. The LRB will conduct the hearings.

The conclusions of the LRB hearing are reported to the Mayor who may then deny, suspend, or revoke the license in question. If a license is refused or denied, the Mayor may refuse to accept any applications for any new licenses from the same applicant for 1 year. A The mayor can also suspend any license for an emergency.

Incidents That Trigger a “Due Cause” Hearing Include:

- Pushing patrons to buy drinks for employees or individuals hired by the establishment
- Selling alcohol to someone under 21
- Allowing entry to someone under 21
- Being convicted of a felony related to the sale of alcohol or the business
- Violation of a state law related to alcohol
- Violation of the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act
- Permitting the solicitation of prostitution on the premises
- Overserving
- Failing to pay Federal, State, or Local taxes
- Failing to provide requested data to APD or LRB
- Failing to comply with terms of an existing alcohol license
- Changing the type of establishment without LRB approval
- Failing to supervise employees and patrons anywhere on the property including in parking lots
- Discrimination or violating City’s human relations ordinance



- Not maintaining property outside the lot including sidewalks
- Signage violations
- Noise ordinance violations if related to the sale of alcohol
- Failing to provide receipts of gross revenue from alcohol sales to the LRB if the business has a distance exemption
- Allowing the sale of illegal drugs
- The location being declared a nuisance because of repeated violent activity on the property

Penalties for Violations

- First violation of an existing license for alcohol sales for on-site consumption:
 - 5 days- 180 days suspension of license AND
 - \$2,000 fine OR license revocation
- Second violation of an existing license for alcohol sales for on-site consumption:
 - 30 days- 1 year suspension of license AND
 - \$2,000 fine OR license revocation
- Third violation:
 - License revocation

Automatic Revocation

- If the state revokes a license, then a City of Atlanta alcohol license is automatically revoked.



ALCOHOL LICENSE DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS

This section provides a plain language summary of the relevant code section (10-88) prepared for discussion. The code section from the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances is current as of November 2025 and linked in the sources section below.

These distance requirements apply to all businesses selling alcohol except for restaurants and sidewalk cafés that do not provide entertainment.

Alcohol May Not be Sold Within:

- 300 feet of a private residence
- 150 feet of a private residence (if the business is in a shopping center over 80,000 sq ft)
- 300 feet of an Atlanta Public Library branch
- 500 feet of a church or public park
 - Except for churches that are in commercial buildings or the business selling alcohol predated the church
- 300 feet of a hospital or mental health facility
- 600 feet of a school, college campus or any organization or facility that serves youth
- 300 feet of a tattoo parlor



EDGEWOOD CORRIDOR DISTANCE EXCEPTIONS

This section provides a plain language summary of relevant code sections (10-92, 10-94, 10-95) prepared for discussion. The code sections from the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances are current as of November 2025 and linked in the sources section below.

There are no exceptions to the distance requirements of § 10-88 located within the study area of the Task Force. The closest exemption is 209 Edgewood Avenue (the Municipal Market).

Any building on the National Register of Historic Places is exempt from alcohol distance requirements.

Any pre-existing business with a license is permitted to expand their premises even if that expansion violates the distance requirements.



CURRENT LICENSE HOLDERS

Current number of liquor licenses in the corridor: 27
 Liquor licenses on Edgewood Avenue: 27
 Licensing compliance checks in the last 2 years: 25
 Licensing compliance citations issued in the last 2 years: 7

Active business licenses issues in the last 2 years: Not available (GA DOR issues licenses)
 Types of business licenses active on the corridor: Not available (GA DOR issues licenses)

Lieutenant Craig Burrell shared with the task force 09/24 that all businesses with liquor licenses on the corridor also have current business licenses.

Date of First Issue for Current Liquor License Holders:

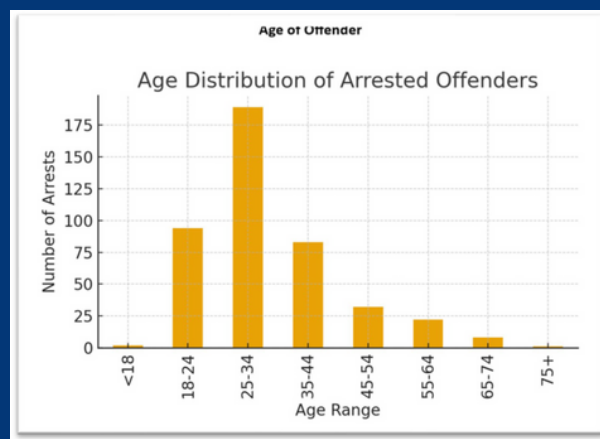
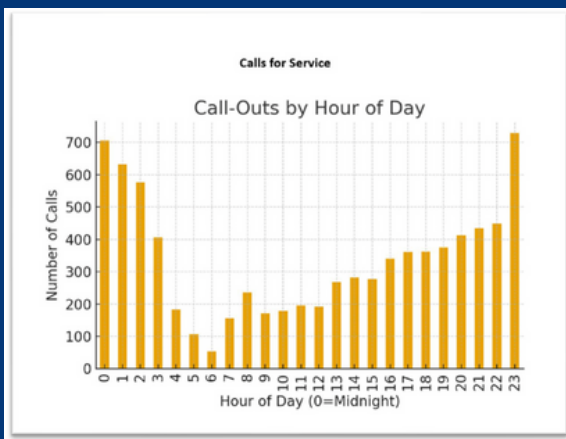
#	Business Name	Address	Alcohol License	Status	Date of Issuance
1	Sensational Subs	33 Edgewood Ave SE	A00-173407-2020	Current	4/5/2016
2	Hendrix Bourbon & Cigar Bar a/k/a Palm Beach	330 Edgewood Ave SE	ALCO-0521-02905	Current	Unknown
3	Our Bar ATL	339 Edgewood Ave SE	A20-189209-2020	Current	1/20/2020
4	Fin and Feathers, LLC	345 Edgewood Ave SE	ALCO-0623-21256	Current	1/12/2024
5	Harold's Ice Bar	349 Edgewood Ave SE	ALCO-0125-35131	No - Application is being processed as "Change of Ownership" - Business is closed due to renovations.	Change of Ownership - Under Renovation - Not Issued
6	Miss Conduck	357 Edgewood Ave SE	ALCO-1223-25718	Current	4/13/2024
7	CRU Edgewood	367 Edgewood Ave SE	ALCO-0924-33333	Current	2/17/2025
8	A&B Variety	361 Edgewood Ave SE	A34-048308-2020	Current	Unknown
9	Flick ATL, Inc.	363 Edgewood Ave SE	ALCO-0225-37416	Current	7/10/2025
10	Edgewood Food Mart	400 Edgewood Ave SE	A34-117738-2020	The business has a current 2025 alcohol license (A34-117738-2020). There is currently an application pending for "Change of Agent".	Unknown
11	Georgia Beer Garden	420 Edgewood Ave SE	ALCO-0525-40114	Current	7/29/2025
12	Georgia Beer Garden	420 Edgewood Ave SE	ALCO-0525-39949	Current	8/3/2025
13	Happy Hour ATL	421 Edgewood Ave SE	ALCO-0424-29694	Current	11/14/2024
14	Joystick Game Bar	427 Edgewood Ave SE	A20-155152-2020	Current	6/12/2012
15	Iconz Atlanta Sports Bar and Lounge	447 Edgewood Ave SE	ALCO-1024-33575	Current	4/29/2025
16	Cafe Circa	464 Edgewood Ave SE	ALCO-0621-03881	Current	1/5/2022
17	Church	466 Edgewood Ave SE	A20-146773-2020	Current	12/2/2010
18	LORE	466 Edgewood Ave SE (Suite B)	ALCO-0125-35272 ALCO-0125-35273	All Current	3/25/2025 3/25/2025
19	Handle Bar	476 Edgewood Ave SE	ALCO-0821-05518	Current	Unknown
20	Edgewood Pizza	478 Edgewood Ave SE	A20-155970-2020	Current	Unknown
21	Pisces	483 Edgewood Ave SE	ALCO-0524-30864	Current	9/18/2024
22	Marcus Bar & Grille	525 Edgewood Ave SE	ALCO-0821-06082	Current	6/11/2025
23	Staplehouse	541 Edgewood Ave SE	A20-170158-2020	Current	3/25/2025
24	Planet Bombay Indian Cuisine	619 Edgewood Ave SE	A20-186976-2020	Current	Unknown
25	Chiringa	678 Edgewood Ave SE	ALCO-0824-32483	Current	3/14/2025
26	Boccalupo	753 Edgewood Ave SE	A20-158744-2020	Current	6/4/2013
27	Kitty Dare	1029 Edgewood Ave SE	ALCO-0721-05342	Current	2/1/2021



ENFORCEMENT / ARREST INFORMATION

Peak Service Call Hours

- Over the last year, the highest volume of call outs was between the hours of 11pm and 1am. The call volume peaked with roughly 750 calls last year between 11pm and midnight.



Age Range of Offenders

- Almost half of all offenders were arrested between the ages of 25-34.
- Roughly a quarter of offenders were between the ages of 18-24.

Party Houses

The APD Department RMS does not identify locations as “party houses.” Consequently, it does not track the number of 911/311 calls for “party houses”, the number of citations issued for “party houses”, or the number of arrests made in connection to “party houses.”

Top Locations of Arrests Over the Last Year

- 367 Edgewood (CRU Edgewood)
- 400 Edgewood (Edgewood Food Mart)
- 330 Edgewood (Hendrix Bourbon and Cigar Bar a/k/a Palm Beach)

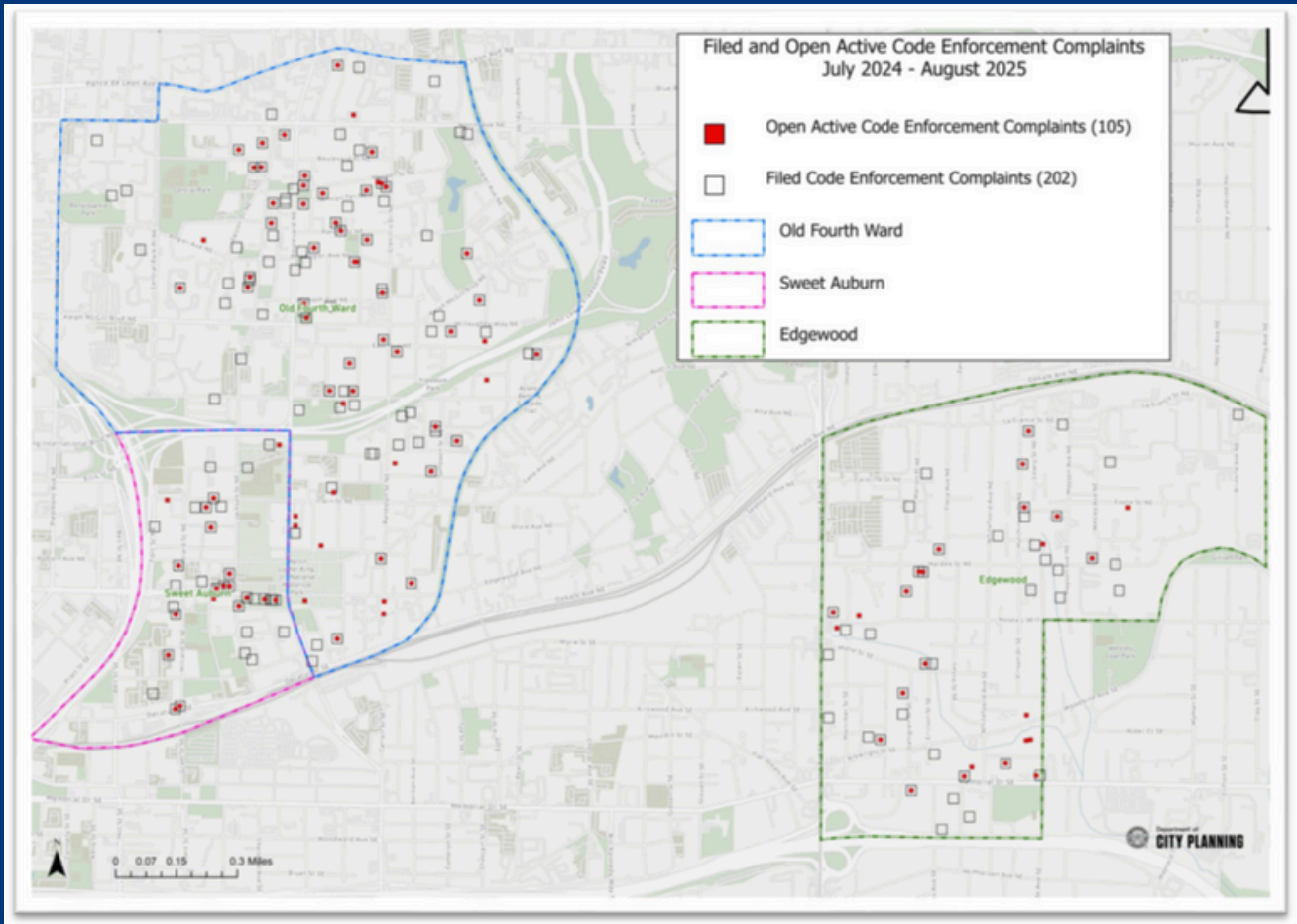
Zip Codes of Primary Residences of Offenders:

The overwhelming majority (403) of arrested offenders resided in 30312. The remaining offenders resided in 30303 and 30308 (26 and 2 respectively).



CODE ENFORCEMENT

Code enforcement citations in the last year: 40





AFRD WALK-THROUGH FOLLOW-UP

AFRD observation report from the Edgewood Ave Joint Public Safety Walk-Through conducted June 18, 2025, are as follows:

Edgewood Ave

- 323 Edgewood Ave -Public way (sidewalk) raised from pavement. Possible trip hazard.
- 327 Edgewood Ave – Fire Department Connections (FDC) caps are missing.
- 331 Edgewood Ave – Improper storage of propane tanks
- 379 Edgewood Ave – Outside furniture too close to egress pathway
- 381 Edgewood Ave – Egress gate locked (Business was currently closed) Ensure that lock is removed when business is in operation status.
- 417 Edgewood Ave – Outside electrical outlet needs repair.
- 420 Edgewood Ave – Refer to building department on egress pathway door swing.

Hilliard St

- 19 Hilliard St - Knox box gate access and keys need updating.

Jackson St.

- 10 Jackson St – Vegetation overgrowth on electrical air condition unit.
- 14 Jackson St – Outside electrical outlet needs repair.
- 16 Jackson St – Water meter has sunken into the payment (sidewalk). Possible trip hazard.



CURRENT “PARTY HOUSE” LEGISLATION

This section provides a plain language summary of relevant code (§ 16-29.001 (86)) prepared for discussion. The code section from the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances is current as of November 2025 and linked in the sources section below.

A party house is a residential unit (single or multifamily) that is used for an event that charges an entry fee, or fee for the use of the property. Events hosted by nonprofits, civic, professional, or political organizations do not fall within the regulation. Essentially the ordinance is limited to for-profit events that charge fees to attendees.

The zoning code bans party houses in all residential districts, including MR (multifamily residential) and R-G (residential general district). The code permits party houses in MRC (mixed residential commercial district). The party house paper does not explicitly prohibit party houses in historic corridors.

The Edgewood corridor contains a mix of MR, R-G, MRC and historic corridor designations.



BLIGHT TAX PROCEDURE

This section provides a plain language summary of the Blight Tax Ordinances (§§ 146.202-207) prepared for discussion. The code sections from the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances are current as of November 2025 and linked in the sources section below.

The description below outlines the mechanism to have a property declared blighted and the consequences of that determination. We have yet to see it widely deployed in the year since it was passed by, because it is a fairly length process and has substantial consequences for a designated property.

The City may conduct a survey of an area that identifies parcels that may be blighted. After this survey, a “public officer” (designated by the Mayor) shall conduct a full inspection of a specific parcel. These full inspections may also be initiated by the public officer designated by the Mayor. After a full inspection, the public officer will make a written determination of blight status.

An inhabited property is not eligible to be considered blighted. A property may be eligible for a declaration of blight if, upon inspection, it meets two or more of the following criteria:

- It is uninhabitable, unsafe, or abandoned
- It has inadequate ventilation, light, air or sanitation
- It has suffered a natural disaster as declared by the governor and a public agency has given written notice of the specific harm caused by the property
- It has been identified as contaminated by the EPA
- There has been repeated illegal activity that the owner knows about
- The property has received a code violation and not been repaired for over a year

If a property is declared blighted, the owner has 30 days to submit a plan to address the blight. If their plan is not accepted or if the property owner prefers, the owner may request a public hearing on the blight status.

If a property is found to be blighted, the owner’s property taxes will increase January 1 of the next year after the blight designation. Their City of Atlanta taxes will be increased by 25x the current millage rate. Once the owner resolves the blighted condition, they may petition to have the designation removed. After the blight designation is lifted, the owner will pay a reduced tax rate of .5 the current millage rate for two years.



STRATEGIES OF OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

Coordinated Land Use and Nighttime Planning

- Other cities have added soundproofing requirements in their building codes for nightlife uses.
- Transit planning that contemplates evening uses may include designated zones for ride-share hailing and food-truck zones.

New Orleans, Louisiana

- In 2024, the city launched a study of the local nightlife ecosystem.
- The Mayor's Office of Nighttime Economy provides substantial resources to nightlife businesses.
- Coordinated street sweeping of the French Quarter is performed at the close of Mardi Gras parades (not nightly).

Night "Mayors"

- Serve as a liaison between nightlife establishments, citizens and local governments.
- European models often employ an independent advocate; US counterparts are more likely to be government-appointed representatives.
- 77% work at a citywide level; 19% at a district or local level.
- 42% are mayoral or council appointments; 26% are civil society appointments; 13% are appointed by the nightlife industry.
- Some US positions are created legislatively.
- At least 20 cities in the US have adopted the role.



STRATEGIES OF OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

Oakland, California

- In 2019, the City of Oakland implemented a heightened tax on vacant properties.
- Tax rates are set based on the structure occupying the property or whether the property is a vacant lot.
- Special exemptions are provided for disabled property owners, low-income property owners, those experiencing an acute hardship, and nonprofits.

Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

- Over the last 40 years, the South Side grew into a popular bar district with over 40 bars in the area. The area faced many of the same crime and sanitation issues as the Edgewood corridor.
- In 2016, they adopted a nighttime economy manager to coordinate city officials and government officials to raise funds for sanitation and safety improvements.
- City Council created a special parking district with on-street meters enforced overnight, generating \$200,000 per year in annual funding.
- The new funding went to cleanup crews and monitored cameras.
- After implementing the new programming, crime dropped 30% in the first year (2017).



SOURCES/ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

AFRD Walk-Through Follow-up

- [Observation Report Conducted June 18, 2025](#)

Alcohol Licensing Definitions

- [Chapter 10- Relevant Sections .docx](#)

Alcohol Enforcement Ordinances

- [Chapter 10- Relevant Sections .docx](#)

Alcohol Licensing Distance Requirements

- [Chapter 10- Relevant Sections .docx](#)

Blight Tax Ordinance

- [ARTICLE V. BLIGHTED PROPERTY.docx](#)

Crime Data Mapping

- [APD Crime Map](#)
 - Filter the map by neighborhood for Sweet Auburn; the map area is a close analogue of the study area.

Demographic Overview: Provided by the Department of City Planning

- [ProjectDemographicTable.xlsx](#)

Edgewood Corridor Distance Exceptions

- [Chapter 10- Relevant Sections .docx](#)

Edgewood Corridor Study Area Boundaries: Provided by the Department of City Planning

- [Edgewood Corridor Development Patterns Map.pdf](#)

Enforcement/ Arrest Information: Provided by Chief Schierbaum Atlanta Police Department

- [Edgewood Task Force 1st Meeting Questions Answers Chief Schierbaum.pdf](#)

Homelessness Task Force Final Report

- [90Day Homelessness Task Force Executive Summary.pdf](#)
- [City of Atlanta Homelessness Taskforce 90Day Report-Final.pdf](#)

Party House Ordinance

- [Sec. 16 29.001. Application.- Party House Code.docx](#)

Other Municipal Strategies

- [General Nightlife Strategies](#)
- [New Orleans Mayor's Office of Nighttime Economy Resource Guides](#)
- [Night Mayor Deep Dive](#)
- [Oakland Vacant Property Tax](#)

Zoning information

- [Atlanta GIS zoning map](#)
-