

A RESOLUTION BY COUNCILMEMBERS JENNIFER IDE, JOYCE M. SHEPERD, MATT WESTMORELAND, ANDRE DICKENS, AMIR FAROKHI, JP MATZIGKEIT, ANTONIO BROWN, CARLA SMITH, ANDREA BOONE, DUSTIN HILLIS, MICHAEL JULIAN BOND AND MARCI COLLIER OVERSTREET

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENTION OF THE ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL TO REIMAGINE POLICING IN ATLANTA; TO CREATE THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT RESTRICTED FUND; AND REQUESTING THAT THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER PRODUCE A REPORT OF RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE CITY’S APPROACH TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND 21ST CENTURY POLICING, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SYSTEMATIC CHANGES IN POLICE POLICIES, REINVENTING THE CULTURE OF POLICING IN OUR CITY AND BEING A MODEL FOR PUBLIC SAFETY FOR CITIES ACROSS THE NATION, TO BE PROVIDED TO THE ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL BY NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, 2020, AND WHICH SHALL INFORM THE ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL ON FUTURE BUDGET DETERMINATIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, Atlanta is the birthplace of the civil rights movement, and more than any other city in our country, Atlanta has the responsibility to lead in creating a world-class public safety system where all citizens feel the system protects them, including Black and Brown residents; and

WHEREAS, driven by the Black Lives Matter movement, there has been an outcry for Atlanta to re-examine and make fundamental changes toward its approach to policing; and

WHEREAS, while it is important to continue to look for ways to expand oversight policies, strengthen training, and implement better procedures, the time has come for a broader discussion to reimagine policing in Atlanta, and then the implementation of systematic changes in police policies, reinventing the culture of policing in our City; and being a model for public safety for cities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Police Department (“APD”)’s current approach to policing incorporates many best practices: implementing President Barack Obama’s Task Force On 21st Century Policing; ensuring that APD maintains a police force that reflects the demographics of our city; mandating extensive recruit and annual training on cultural awareness, use of force and de-escalation tactics; requiring the use of body cameras; and requiring officers participate in programming on the negative role of law enforcement on community/police relations, during the civil right era and presently; and

WHEREAS, the City appreciates the incredibly difficult work of the men and women who make up APD and is committed to retaining and better supporting our APD officers who have committed to the highest standards of policing; and

WHEREAS, APD’s efforts at improving community engagement is reflected through the At-Promise Youth Centers and Secure Neighborhoods initiatives, which creates pathways to home ownership inside the city for officers; and

WHEREAS, APD holds itself to a high level of scrutiny through APD’s Office of Professional Standards that investigates complaints against officers; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the City has had an independent review process through the Atlanta Citizens Review Board, whose mission is to independently investigate complaints against police; and

WHEREAS, despite all of these measures, residents and visitors have unfortunately faced injury and death at the hands of APD officers amid allegations and evidence of excessive use of force; and

WHEREAS, the APD responds to calls regarding violent crime, property crime, homelessness, civil disputes among neighbors, noise complaints, property condition concerns, concerns about individuals with mental health issues, and a host of other matters that may require differing levels of response, training, and resources; and

WHEREAS, other cities have considered and implemented reforms that: utilize trained, unarmed professionals to respond to calls on nonviolent crime matters involving mental health, the homeless, school discipline and neighbor disputes, break the cycle where citizens of color fear reporting crimes, and create safer neighborhoods for their family and their community; and

WHEREAS, the City should examine implementing appropriate improvements quickly that can serve as immediate stopgaps, such as those contained in “8 Can’t Wait” and others, while the City takes time to prepare thoughtful, significant, and comprehensive changes to our public safety system; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta must make more significant investments in addressing the needs of our residents and the root causes of crime, including lack of access to stable, affordable housing, high-quality public education, and economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to pay municipal employees a fair and appropriate wage for the jobs that they do in order to attract and retain the highest level of performance and commitment to their jobs; and

WHEREAS, the City made a determination, based on an external analysis, that the officers of the APD were paid below market rates and City Council committed legislatively to bring their salaries to an appropriate level; and

WHEREAS, the City Council remains committed to honoring those pay levels to be able to attract and maintain the most highly qualified officers; and

WHEREAS, the City must pass an annual budget before the beginning of the Fiscal Year 2021 on July 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City needs to continue to provide for the safety and wellbeing of its residents and visitors even while it does an analysis of the needed changes to the City’s approach to public safety; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City Council to continue funding the current operations of APD during the period in which a comprehensive review is conducted of the City’s approach to public safety and while any changes are implemented; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City Council to restrict the APD budget for Q3 and Q4 of FY2021 and place such amounts into a Public Safety and Community Support Restricted Fund while a review of the City’s approach to public safety and policing is conducted; and

WHEREAS, to assist in the analysis of any policy or budgetary changes to APD, the City Council requests that the Chief Operating Officer (“COO”) conduct a review of the operations and budget of APD; and

WHEREAS, the COO should coordinate his examination with members of the Fulton and DeKalb Counties Boards of Health, Atlanta-Fulton County Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiative, Partners for Home, the ACLU of Georgia, the Atlanta Police Foundation, academic experts in criminal justice reform, and members of the community, including members of vulnerable and historically marginalized populations, the Atlanta Police Department, as well as other subject matter experts and community representatives, as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms issued an Administrative Order on June 4, 2020 to convene an Advisory Council to examine the City’s use of force policies and procedures in order to provide her with recommendations for any operational or legislative changes within 45 days of the issuance of the Order; and

WHEREAS, the COO shall incorporate the recommendations of the Advisory Council on use of force; and

WHEREAS, the COO will make a monthly update beginning in August, 2020 to the City Council’s Public Safety Committee and Finance/Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, the COO shall create opportunities to hear from the public; and

WHEREAS, City Council requests that the COO make his final recommendations to City Council by December 1, 2020, such that further budget determinations may be made by the City Council thereafter; and

WHEREAS, such report and recommendations shall encompass a review of best practices in people-centered public safety from around the world; and

WHEREAS, the COO’s report and recommendations shall also include what role Fulton and DeKalb Counties, which are charged with providing public and mental health services, should play

in funding and delivering any public health and mental health services alongside or integrated into APD; and

WHEREAS, the data contained in the report of the COO shall include the following information: (1) a history for the past 50 years (to the extent that records exist) of police spending in dollar amount and percentage of budget; (2) crime rate for City of Atlanta for same period; (3) an analysis of crime patterns for same period, which shall include, if available, factors that may have impacted crime patterns such as infrastructure changes or other investments; and (4) a comparison of City of Atlanta Police Department spending versus peer cities for the past 10 years;

WHEREAS, the report and recommendations shall also include a “zero-based”/“bottom-up” budget justification indicating what resources are required to run APD and their intended impact on public safety; and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta City Council may also request presentations by national and international experts in the areas of public safety and criminal justice reform be made at meetings of the Public Safety Committee and Finance/Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta City Council will provide for opportunities to hear from the public on these issues; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent that funds will be moved from the Public Safety and Community Support Restricted Fund to the APD budget and/or other departments by budget amendments legislated through City Council throughout FY2021 following the receipt of recommendations from the Chief Operating Officer and the City Council’s consideration of all information presented; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA that pursuant to Ordinance ____, the Chief Financial Officer shall create an account for the Public Safety and Community Support Restricted Fund (xxxxxx), and make the initial transfer to the trust fund as provided in Ordinance _____.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Operating Officer (“COO”) will make a monthly update each month beginning in August and through the delivery of the final report and recommendations to the City Council’s Public Safety Committee and Finance/Executive Committee, and should create opportunities to hear from the public during the formulation of the final report and recommendations.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council requests that the COO make his final recommendations to City Council by no later than December 1, 2020 and that such report and recommendations shall encompass:

- (1) a review of best practices in people-centered public safety from around the world;

(2) what role Fulton and DeKalb Counties, which are charged with providing public and mental health services, should play in funding and delivering any public health and mental health services alongside or integrated into the Atlanta Police Department (“APD”);

(3) how best to include and expand community-based public safety approaches to build trust and relationships with residents;

(4) what resources are needed to best support our public safety employees, including mental health evaluations and services;

(5) a compilation of the following information:

(a) a history for the past 50 years (to the extent that records exist) of police spending in dollar amount and percentage of budget;

(b) crime rate for City of Atlanta for same period;

(c) an analysis of crime patterns for same period, which shall include, if available, factors that may have impacted crime patterns such as infrastructure changes or other investments;

(d) a comparison of City of Atlanta Police Department spending versus peer cities for the past 10 years; and

(6) a “zero-based”/“bottom-up” budget justification indicating what resources are required to run APD and their intended impact on public safety.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that after the receipt of the recommendations of the COO, requests for transfer of additional funding from the Public Safety and Community Support Restricted Fund may be made for public safety purposes.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that any resolutions in conflict with this resolution are hereby waived to the extent of the conflict.