




## ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

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### INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members of Council

FROM: Felicia A. Moore, President 

DATE: February 24, 2021

SUBJECT: Quarterly Update – Atlanta Regional Commission

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This update provides an overview of Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) activities since last quarterly update on December 16, 2020.

#### Meetings

ARC monthly meetings are still conducted remotely due to COVID-19. The following meetings were attended or are upcoming:

- Board Meetings – 1/13, next meeting will take place 3/10/2021
- Special Board Briefing (Regional Development Plan) – will take place 3/2/2021
- Pension Board of Trustees – First Quarterly Meeting tentatively scheduled for 3/24/2021
- Archived documents for these meetings can be accessed [here](#).

#### Key Issues

The following key issues have been discussed during this quarter:

- *FY20 Aging 2020 Annual Report. Highlights include:*
  - Goal is still to maximize the independence, health, and well-being for older persons, individuals with disabilities and their partners.
  - 792,000 people age 60 or older lived in metro Atlanta in 2019 (approximately 1 in 8). We expect that number to grow to 1.2M by 2030 (approximately 1 in 4).
  - Key focus areas for ARC will be accessible transportation, pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods, and affordable housing for every phase of life.
  - Demand for programmatic services increased in 2020 due to COVID-19. ARC allocated \$5.4M regionwide in federal dollars and philanthropic funding to the provision of services enabling this segment of our population to continue living as independently as possible (counseling, in-home meals, wellness programs, legal assistance, etc).
  - ARC's Aging & Independent Services Group will continue advocating for services at the federal, state, and local levels.
  - [Aging and Independent Services 2020 Annual Report](#)

- *Green Communities. Highlights include:*
  - Green Communities is a voluntary certification program encouraging local governments to implement measures reducing their environmental footprint. The program’s target areas are government buildings, fleets, and practices; community engagement; and public education on sustainability issues.
  - Local governments earn points by implementing sustainable policies and practices across a range of categories.
  - Adopted a resolution with goal of full Green Communities certification within 2 years.
  - The City of Atlanta is currently certified Gold status (Platinum is the highest certification level).
  - [Green Communities Presentation](#)
  
- *Economic Impact of COVID-19. Highlights include:*
  - We discussed what we “think” we know about the impacts of COVID-19 upon the region’s economy.
  - In January, cases were trending upward driven most likely by people spending increased amounts of time indoors at places which were not their homes, for extended periods of time.
  - Employment numbers are improving but still have not reached pre-pandemic levels. The only sectors which seem to be pandemic-proof are Trade, Transportation, and Utilities.
  - Only 10% of small businesses report a return to normal as others continue to struggle in the pandemic economy.
  - Approximately 27% of licensed childcare facilities and homes are closed. Some reports indicate that roughly 50% of these facilities may never reopen.
  - When the national moratorium ends, approximately 80,000 renter households throughout the region will be under severe distress.
  - The shift to virtual learning at the end of the school year contributed to declines in reading and math proficiency equaling about 2 years of learning loss.
  - Households are saving more money during the pandemic which may point toward an economic resurgence in late 2021 barring any further unanticipated circumstances.
  - What we know for sure is that persons of color are experiencing the greatest adverse impacts due to the dual public health and economic crises.
  - [Economic Impact 2021 Presentation](#)
  
- *Workforce Presentation. Highlights include:*
  - Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board directs the investment of \$12-15 million annually in 7 counties.
  - Goals are to ensure region employers have a trained workforce; ensure residents in the Atlanta region have access to high-quality labor market information, training, employment services, along with educational and career advancement
  - ARC will also support workforce development initiatives encompassing all 10 counties within Region 3.
  - [Workforce Presentation – January 13, 2021](#)