



City of Atlanta

OFFICE OF THE CITY SOLICITOR

FY22 – Quarterly Update

Presentation to Public Safety and Legal Administration Committee

February 14, 2022

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City Solicitor



Office of the City Solicitor: Key Priorities

- Leverage technology to efficiently resolve cases in a fair and balanced manner through case screening, pre-trial negotiations and use of diversion and alternative prosecution programs
- Continue code enforcement initiative by identifying and tackling blight and other community concerns using civil actions, judicial in rem, condemnation and nuisance abatement
- Continue to support the Atlanta Police Academy and other law enforcement agencies through recruit and in-service training to improve ticket writing skills and courtroom presence to sustain successful prosecution
- Continue collaboration with other city departments and community groups to address specific problems in the community through assertive presence and engagement



CRITICAL ACTIVITIES

- Pre-trial Diversion Programs
- Record Restriction
- Nuisance Properties Initiative
- Community Prosecution and Outreach



PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Solicitor's Office Pre-Trial Diversion Programs provide eligible defendants a choice to resolve cases efficiently by routing their cases away from traditional prosecution and preventing a criminal conviction and record for minor offenses. These programs promote accountability while reducing the footprint in court.

- The Solicitor's Office continued to offer Diversion Programs as an option to resolve cases during COVID..
- Pre-Trial Diversion include:
 - A program for owner occupied properties for those who are disabled, elderly, or hold veteran status. The Office of the City Solicitor has entered into cooperative relations with other city departments for this initiative. For example, in collaboration with Atlanta Fire and Rescue we are able to educate participants on home maintenance, fire prevention and safety.
 - Pre-Trial Intervention Program for Traffic Offenses (**PTI-T**), is a convenient option to resolve traffic cases while reducing the footprint in court. PTI-T promotes safe driving and emphasizes accountability while allowing the public to settle cases outside of court.
 - The Pre-Trial Intervention Program for Criminal Offenses (**PTI-C**) allows criminal charges to be dismissed upon completion of program. Additionally, participants are eligible to have their charge restricted (formerly known as expunged).



RECORD RESTRICTION

- Record Restriction (formerly known as expungement) is the process that allows certain charges on an individual's official criminal record to be restricted from public view and only accessible to law enforcement agencies for criminal justice purposes.
- Record Restriction is important because it provides for better employment opportunities for citizens of Atlanta.
- Most cases that appear on an individual's criminal record are eligible for a Record Restriction upon completion of a Diversion Program.
- Online portal to complete request if arrested/charged after July 2013.
 - Total Record Restriction request processed/received:
 - October 1, 2021- December 31, 2021: 31



NUISANCE PROPERTIES INITIATIVE

- The Solicitor's Office continues to work closely with the Administration and various city departments to engage in bi-weekly committee meetings to resolve the ongoing nuisance problem properties.
- The original nuisance properties listing has grown from 25 properties to over 40 current properties.
- On November 22, 2021, hearing held for Forest Cove, 900 New Town Circle- property was successfully declared a nuisance.
- The next nuisance hearing is set for March 1, 2022, on 495 Whitehall, Kiss Ultra Lounge.



NUISANCE PROPERTIES INITIATIVE

- The Solicitor's Office has filed over 10 nuisance complaints and received favorable results against 7 properties.

Property	Hearing Date	Outcome
Brooklyn Kitchen- 12 W. Peachtree St.	June 16, 2021	Declared Nuisance
Blue Ivory- 599 Whitehall	May 12, 2021	Not declared nuisance
Club Déjà Vu- 2997 Campbellton Rd.	May 5, 2021	TRO granted in Superior Court
2075 Donald Lee Hollowell	September 21, 2021	Not declared nuisance
Daron Village- 62 Harwell	June 9, 2021	Declared Nuisance
Forest Cove- 900 New Town Circle	November 22, 2021	Declared Nuisance
Ghost Bar- 345 Edgewood Ave.	May 19, 2021	Not declared nuisance
Members Only- 139 Ralph McGill	June 16, 2021	Declared Nuisance
Troy Supermarket- 1218 Joseph E. Boone	September 14, 2021	Nuisance in-part



IN THE COMMUNITY

“Working Together for ONE ATLANTA”



COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOOD DRIVES

- The office continues to provide community outreach by participating in food drives that aid constituents who are experiencing food insecurities.



Date	Event
November 16, 2021	Food Drive at Dunbar Neighborhood- Councilmembers Bond & Winslow
November 18, 2021	Holiday Job Calvary Temple Missionary Baptist Church- Councilmember Winslow
December 14, 2021	Jackson Memorial Baptist Church Food Drive- Councilmember Boone
December 14, 2021	Elizabeth Baptist Church- Councilmember Bond
November 23, 2021	Jackson Memorial Baptist Church- Turkey Giveaway, Councilmember Boone



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"WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER"





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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- On December 7, 2021, our office hosted a virtual event with Benjamin E. Mays for SOAR High School Training.
- Sock Drive, our office will be donating socks to the local shelters during the cold weather.
- Upcoming community outreach events are as follow:

Date	Event
April 11- 12, 2022	DUI Training Event
March 27, 2022	Party on PATH 400
TBD	At Promise Centers- Mental Health Awareness, Education and Outreach

Community Prosecution Outreach Partners

Working Together For a Safer City



City of Atlanta
Code Enforcement





QUESTIONS?