



Kasim Reed
Mayor



About the City of Atlanta!

Under Mayor Reed's leadership, Atlanta has delivered improvements in public safety and quality of life for citizens while at the same time increasing operational efficiency and fiscal management.

"I mean, we balanced four budgets, we paid our bills, we didn't raise property taxes, we built cash reserves from \$7.4 million to \$138 million, we received an unqualified audit from our auditor KPMG, and we improved the City of Atlanta across all three funds. We fully staffed our fire department. We fully staffed our police department. Because that's what people really want. They really don't want government in their business except when they need government. They just want to be able to go to City Hall to get their business license, to pay their water bill. They want the water bill to be accurate, they want the water to work, they want clean streets, and they want their trash picked up. They want a city that has humanity. And that cares about the least of these. Atlanta's getting better all of the time."

--Mayor Kasim Reed, 2014 State of the City



Schools are often a primary concern in annexation. Engagement with the Fulton County Board of Education and Atlanta Public Schools will be required to answer the outstanding questions.

Atlanta Police Department (APD) has grown to an authorized force of 2,000 sworn officers, the largest in the city's history. In addition to 24-hour neighborhood patrols, the Department has all of the assets of a major urban law enforcement agency, including its own SWAT, Mounted Patrol, Homeland Security and Air units, providing it the flexibility and resources necessary to handle any crisis.

- APD is accredited on the national and state levels by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police.
- APD has reduced crime citywide by 16 percent since 2010 through a comprehensive strategy that includes increased visibility, use of innovative technologies and community-oriented policing.



Atlanta Fire Rescue Department (AFR) is a modern, all-hazards fire department focused on emergency preparedness and response for the safety of all residents, visitors, and business stakeholders within the City of Atlanta. AFR operates from 30 fire stations within city boundaries, with another fire station under renovation scheduled to open January 2015, and 5 fire stations located at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

- AFR is an accredited agency through the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE), Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) and has a public fire protection classification rating of Class 1 by the Insurance Service Office (ISO).
- AFR can expand its service delivery capabilities to your neighborhood through an existing intergovernmental agreement or through establishing an automatic aid agreement or construction for a new fire station in the proposed annexed area.
- Additionally, the construction of a new fire station would provide a permanent and sustainable solution to fire and rescue services for the proposed area.



The City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) plays an integral role in fostering, supporting and promoting high quality recreational, educational and cultural experiences for Atlanta's residents and visitors. DPR strives to deliver quality customer service through the development, operation and maintenance of the city's public parks, recreation and cultural affairs facilities to create an environment that is safe, affordable and enriching for all.

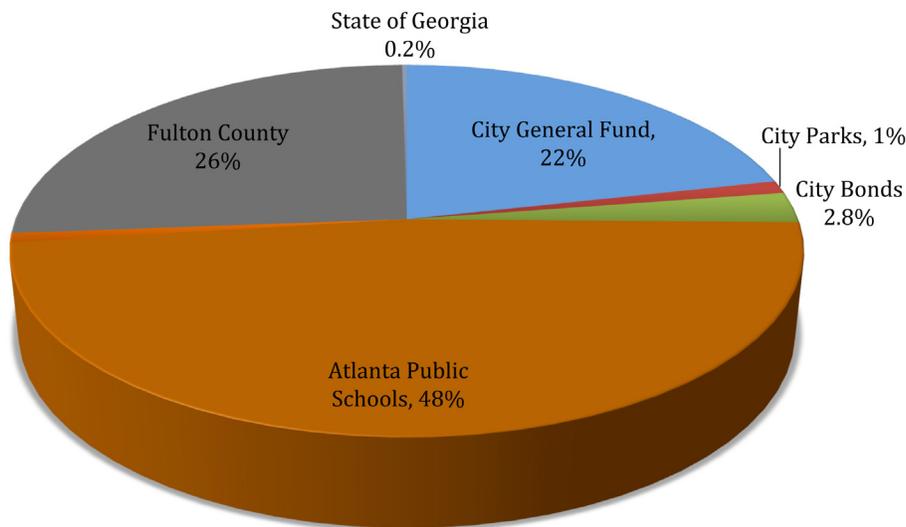
- Resident population living within 1/2-mile of a park increased from 50% to 63% in four years.
- The City is an aggressive acquirer of greenspace, and will include land in your neighborhood in any analysis of potential new acquisitions.
- Many of DPR's programs, including the Centers of Hope, deliver quality afterschool programming which enhance youth development. Programs and athletic leagues are offered at a discount rate for City of Atlanta residents.
- The Office of Recreation offers enhanced programming for seniors through a variety of activities including physical fitness, social networking, arts & crafts, educational seminars, jewelry crafting and more. Several local and regional trips are also offered. Destinations include Stone Mountain Park, Gregg Farms, local trips to the theatre, festivals and outdoor parks.



In the past four years, Atlanta has made substantive investments in citizen services and quality of life

- Four years of balanced budgets – with no property tax increases – that resulted in growing the city’s cash reserves from \$7.4 million in 2010 to \$138 million dollars.
- Atlanta is the safest it has been in over four decades.
- Over 800 police officers hired since 2010, bringing the force to 2000 officers.
- Atlanta has increased parks and recreation acreage over 10 percent since 2010.
- Atlanta is safer, greener and more responsive to citizens than ever before.
- Atlanta is a vibrant, energized and professionally managed city.
- The BeltLine runs through Southwest Atlanta with a 1.15 –mile long trail that connects Lionel Hampton Trail to Westwood Avenue and provides improved mobility access through surrounding neighborhoods.
- Atlanta’s FY2014 operating budget is ~\$105M less than FY2008.
- Atlanta is leaner and focused on fiscal prudence and performance management.
- Atlanta’s operating cash reserves have increased from \$7.4M in FY2008 to \$138M in FY2014.
- In 2011, Mayor Reed and the Atlanta City Council passed one of the most sweeping overhauls of public-employee retirement benefits in the country. The measure saves the city more than \$270 million over the next 10 years, and more than \$500 million over 30 years.

PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS BY LEVY



The City of Atlanta is Financially Strong

The City portion of a typical tax bill only accounts for 22 percent. The remaining portion is comprised of Fulton County at 26 percent, Atlanta Public Schools at 48 percent, and the City’s Bonds, Parks, and the State comprise the remaining portions, respectively. Based on the City’s financial estimates, Atlanta’s total tax rates (45.341 mills) are consistent with unincorporated Fulton County (43.122 mills). The City’s \$53 billion tax base is diverse and not subject to reliance on any specific industry, with the leading ten taxpayers (i.e. Delta, Coke AT&T) only accounting for 12.2 percent of the total tax base.

The City’s financial strength is evidenced by ‘AA’ ratings from the two major Wall Street credit agencies, Standard & Poor’s and Moody’s Investor Services. Fund balance is a measure of financial strength and it represents the City’s accumulated savings. Since fiscal year 2010, the City has generated four years of successive operating surpluses resulting in a total fund balance or reserves of \$138 million through the audited period ending June 30, 2014. The City’s fund balances levels are now above the threshold recommended by the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada at approximately 22 percent of the fiscal year 2014 expenditure budget. The City has one of the strongest financial reserves in the metropolitan area. These reserves provide a cushion for unforeseen events.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) manages the City's public right of way and handles some of the most commonly reported issues such as traffic signals, street signs, potholes, household garbage pick-up and recycling.

- On a weekly basis DPW provides pick up of household garbage, recycling and yard trimmings all on the same day.
- Monthly bulk waste pick-up and quarterly street sweeping is also provided, as well as dead animal removal and illegal dumping/signage enforcement & education.
- Added services such as back yard pick up, are also available to eligible disabled/elderly customers.
- Routine transportation inspections of traffic signals, street lights, sidewalks, and roadways ensure the safety of pedestrians and motorists throughout the city.
- Community enhancement projects such as the recent completion of the Danforth Road Streetscape Improvement Project may also be available in areas with identified needs.



The Department of Planning and Community Development is fully prepared to offer the following services immediately to your neighborhood.

- A new zoning district, assign to a NPU district, and assist with historic preservation inquiries.
- South Fulton will be incorporated into the City's existing planning and zoning processes.
- The Comprehensive Development Plan will be amended to include the community.
- Residents will have access to various community development resources such as community development block grants.
- Building permits, inspections and arborist services will be provided to contractors and homeowners. Permitting improvements have reduced the average permit time from thirty days to six.
- The City of Atlanta is committed to listening to your concerns. When residents on Fairburn Road sought assistance for proper street lighting, the City ensured that lights were placed along the road for the safety of drivers and pedestrians alike.



The Department of Watershed Management is dedicated to providing the highest quality drinking water and wastewater services to the City of Atlanta's residents, businesses and wholesale customers at the lowest possible cost, while protecting urban waterways, conserving natural resources, and providing clean, safe water for downstream customers.

- Watershed Management provides water services to the South Fulton area and there will be no impact on those services.
- Customers within the Atlanta City limits pay a lower water rate.
- Watershed Management has several programs in place to help low-income and elderly customers pay their water bill. Senior citizens who meet the income qualifications can receive a 30 percent discount.
- Fulton County will continue to provide sewer services as it does in many other municipalities in the County.



Contact: Mayor's Office of Constituent Services
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