



CITY COUNCIL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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19 R 3622

**A RESOLUTION
BY COUNCILMEMBER ANDRE DICKENS**

**A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO LEAD A COMPREHENSIVE
PROCESS FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ATLANTA CITY DETENTION
CENTER (ACDC) BY EVALUATING POTENTIAL RE-USE THAT COULD BENEFIT
THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY AND TO REIMAGINE THE ATLANTA CITY
DETENTION CENTER AS A CENTER FOR EQUITY**

WHEREAS the City of Atlanta has taken important steps toward reforming our public safety, community health, immigrant justice, and criminal justice systems to better reflect our values of equity, inclusion, justice, and effectiveness; and

WHEREAS the reforms of Pre-Arrest Diversion, Marijuana Reclassification, and Bail Reform have been necessary steps toward a shared commitment to end the use of arrest and jail as solutions to the problems of extreme poverty, addiction, and mental health challenges and instead provide vital community-based services and supports; and

WHEREAS these reforms have also led to a significant decline in the average daily population inside the Atlanta City Detention Center (ACDC), the city’s jail that holds people accused of violations of city ordinances and traffic violations; and

WHEREAS on September 6, 2018, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms signed an Executive Order to end the decades-long contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and transfer all remaining immigrant detainees out of ACDC; and

WHEREAS this Executive Order has led to a further decline of the average daily population in the jail so that the 1300-bed facility has an average daily population of approximately 150 people or less; and

WHEREAS the City seeks to shine light on our forgotten communities and bring equity to every neighborhood in Atlanta; and

WHEREAS the City has an unparalleled opportunity upon the possible closure of ACDC to transform ACDC for the benefit of all Atlanta residents, especially our most vulnerable; and

WHEREAS City of Atlanta officials have traveled to New York City to learn from the leaders of the project to repurpose what was the Bayview Women’s Prison into the NYC Women’s Building; and



WHEREAS the Racial Justice Action Center/Women on the Rise was awarded a \$150,000 grant from private foundations specifically for the design process of the possible transformation of ACDC from a jail into a beneficial center for the community; and

WHEREAS the City of Atlanta seeks to model a community engagement and input process that ensures all stakeholders and especially those most impacted get a voice in the transformation process;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA HEREBY RESOLVES to establish a Task Force to lead the comprehensive process of the transformation of the Atlanta City Detention Center (ACDC) by evaluating potential re-use that could benefit the entire community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force will engage in a directed visioning and planning process to advise how best to potentially revitalize the facility. Research, investigation, and planning shall include but is not limited to:

- o Guiding a Community Engagement Process to ensure thorough and meaningful engagement of the larger community of stakeholders in collective visioning and planning;
- o Engaging in an in-depth needs assessment, including but not limited to interviewing current and former detainees, their families, and the larger community to assess service and support needs;
- o Developing recommendations/options for the core programming of the transformed facility, informed by input from the larger community, to share with the Mayor;
- o Researching best innovative potential uses of the building and/or land;
- o Understanding the larger context of justice reforms in the City of Atlanta and generating policy recommendations to further reduce the detention population and ensure success of the project;
- o Researching the most viable business models for a potentially repurposed facility, including but not limited to such models as a mixed-use site;
- o Investigating and evaluating development scenarios and design concepts as they are developed;
- o Identifying potential investors and funders, and possibly assisting in “friend-raising” and fundraising; and
- o Providing strategic thinking and lending thought leadership to the project throughout the tenure



of the Task Force;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall include stakeholders from the City of Atlanta, Fulton County, DeKalb County, service providers, community organizations, residents, the academic community, the business community, the faith community, public safety representatives, and elected officials, for public conversations about the repurposing of the facility before any final decision is made. Task Force Participants from the City of Atlanta shall include, but are not limited to:

- City of Atlanta Chief Operating Officer, or his/her designee
- Chief Equity Officer, City of Atlanta's Office of Equity, Diversion, and Inclusion, or his/her designee
- Chief Resilience Officer, City of Atlanta's Office of Resilience or his/her designee
- One representative from the City Council, appointed by the Council President
- One representative from the Committee on Public Safety and Legal Administration, appointed by the Chairman of that Committee
- City Attorney, or his/her designee
- Chief Judge, Atlanta Municipal Court, or his/her designee
- Atlanta Police Department Chief, or his/her designee
- Atlanta Department of Corrections Chief, or his/her designee
- *Atlanta Department of City Planning, or his/her designee*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor shall publicly post a solicitation of nominations of interest of additional persons who would like to be considered to serve on the Task Force. The Mayor will select from among those nominees not more than 25 individuals representing the above named sectors, and may add representatives of city government whose input should be considered in the deliberations of the Task Force. The process should be completed and appointments made within 30 days of the passage of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that once individuals are appointed to the Task Force, further dates and deliverables will be finalized with the goal of having a final slate of recommendations completed within twelve months of the passage of this resolution.