



February 7, 2023

Dear Senators and Representatives of the Great State of Georgia,

The DeKalb Cityhood Movement is a larger collection of community members in unincorporated DeKalb County who desire to form a city in southern DeKalb. We believe our highest and best interests will come from incorporation.

- The Vision for our city provides progressive ideas and implementation strategies to serve its citizens' short- and long-term aspirations.
- Cities, in general, are better vehicles for economic development than counties because they can focus exclusively on the area within their boundaries.
- The structure of our city, which includes our Community Area Planning Units (CAPUs), can provide residents of southern DeKalb with a governing authority that is closer and more responsive to citizens' needs and aspirations.
- As per the presentation of the University of GA Carl Vinson Institute in December 2019, a city structure will provide its citizens with more financial resources. Thus, the city can allocate resources to priorities that better meet its citizens' needs and aspirations.

We began our efforts in 2014 under the leadership of State Senator Mike Jacobs and had our first bill introduced in 2015 (HB613 and SB221). Our bill was introduced a second time in 2017 (HB644 and SB495).

We have continually demonstrated support for forming a city. We took 40 people to the Capitol in 2016 and approximately 50 people in 2017. We held a citizens' rally with Vista Grove at the Capitol in 2018. In 2018, we submitted a petition with 1,200 signatures supporting a vote for cityhood to the delegation. In 2022, DCM leaders and volunteers visited the Capitol to talk to members of the DeKalb delegation about



supporting the formation of a City.

In 2022, we were encouraged that all of the DeKalb Senate and six of sixteen DeKalb House delegation members supported the proposed City of Mableton's referendum legislation. We ask that you support your constituents' efforts to secure the same.

We write you individually and as an entire delegation to ask you respectfully for the following:

- Include in your 2023 legislative agenda a statement of intent to support southern DeKalb's right to vote on this important matter.
- Sponsor and support a local legislation referendum in the 2023 session for a municipal incorporation bill for southern DeKalb; and
- Facilitate the necessary discussions that will lead to your constituents being able to cast an informed vote based on their assessment of what best aligns with their aspirations.

Our vote is our voice. Create room for us to raise our voices for our future. Support a city referendum in southern DeKalb.

In Gratitude,
DeKalb Cityhood Movement