



**TO THE: MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA
AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Because the City of Atlanta is divided into twenty-five Neighborhood Planning Units or NPUs, which are citizen advisory councils that make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on zoning, land use, and other planning issues; and the Atlanta Planning Advisory Board is the two-way communication link between the City of Atlanta's neighbors and city government concerning policy decisions that affect its citizens neighborhoods NPU's and the city as a whole, we present the following Resolution:

I.

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States announced a national emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which included two emergency declarations: one under the National Emergencies Act and one under the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), located within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued an Order under Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act to temporarily halt residential evictions to prevent the further spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Housing Authority, Atlanta Beltline Inc., Fulton County/City of Atlanta Land Bank Authority, Invest Atlanta, Partners for Home, and the City of Atlanta's Department of Grants and Community Development were called upon to institute a temporary moratorium on residential evictions and filings in sponsored and funded housing units and housing developments, which remained in place through August 31, 2020; and

II.

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta has taken important steps to minimize consequences of residential evictions by implementing policy guidance *during this pandemic*; and

WHEREAS, pandemic mitigation interventions have posed challenges for individuals, families, employers (both public and private), and local communities; and

WHEREAS, the Charter of the City of Atlanta provides that municipal funds may be authorized to cover operating expenses incurred by Neighborhood Planning Units (NPU's) and the Atlanta Planning Advisory Board (APAB); and continued planning along with innovative technology is necessary to ensure effective coordinated communication strategies and the continuity of essential services during this pandemic,

III.

WHEREAS, housing stability helps protect public health as displaced residents and homelessness increases the likelihood of individuals moving into close quarters in congregate settings, such as homeless shelters, which then puts individuals at higher risk to COVID-19, and

WHEREAS, the instituted temporary moratorium on residential evictions and filings in sponsored and funded housing units and housing developments ends December 31, 2020,

IV.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Mayor of the City of Atlanta and/or the City Council are hereby requested by the Atlanta Planning Advisory Board to allocate funds in the FY2021 budget to enable APAB and the City’s 25 NPU’s to plan and implement communications platforms that will increase housing stability and help protect public health, as displaced residents and homelessness increase the likelihood of individuals moving into close quarters in congregate settings, such as homeless shelters, which then puts individuals at higher risk to COVID-19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Atlanta Planning Advisory Board, via the use of allocated funds, shall lead discussion-based exercises as a first step to help identify “gaps” in policies, protocols, processes, plans, procedures and opportunities, as included in CDC guidelines for planning for pandemic mitigation interventions; and the Atlanta Planning Advisory Board shall create a participatory engagement process with the community that supports the goals and strategy as outlined for Community Mitigation Guidelines to mitigate and limit the spread of a pandemic; mitigate disease, suffering, and death; and sustain infrastructure and lessen the impact to the economy and the functioning of society.

The Atlanta Planning Advisory Board has attached a Proposed Budget and Communications Implementation Plan to this Resolution; and hereby request to be placed on the next City Council agenda to present oral arguments for this budget request.

So resolved, this _____ th day of _____ 2020.

Debbie Skopczynski,
2020 APAB President

Approved by the APAB Board by a vote of ___ Ayes ___ Nays ___ Abstention

A Resolution by the Public Safety Committee of the Atlanta Planning Advisory Board

Submitted this _____ day of _____, 2020