



# DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center  
1300 Commerce Drive  
Decatur, Georgia 30030

## Minutes

### ERPS-Employee Relations & Public Safety Committee

*Commissioner Ted Terry (Chair)*  
*Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson*  
*Commissioner Michelle Long Spears*

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Thursday, June 20, 2024

2:15 PM

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### Special Called Meeting

Meeting Started At: 2:24 PM

Attendees: Commissioners Davis Johnson, Long Spears, Terry, Patrick

**Present**      3 - Commissioner Ted Terry, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson,  
and Commissioner Michelle Long Spears

#### I. MINUTES

**2024-0742**      Commission District(s): All  
Minutes for the June 4, 2024, Employee Relations and Public  
Safety Committee Meeting  
**MOTION was made by Michelle Long Spears, seconded by  
Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. The  
motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Long Spears

**Abstain:** 1 - Commissioner Terry

#### II. DISCUSSION

[2023-0558](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

A Resolution requesting a study regarding the possibility of establishing a police civilian review board in DeKalb County.

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 6/25/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Terry, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Long Spears**

-presentation provided and discussed by Shannon McGraw - BOC Central Staff Policy Analyst

-Question MLS: how common are these review boards?

-response provided by Ms. McGraw

-Question MDJ: If it is determined that a policy has not been followed by a review board but the user department finds no fault, then what happens?

McGraw: when it comes to review board recommendations, ultimately the decision is left to the leadership of the department in question.

-Question MDJ: are there qualifications that one must have to sit on the Citizen Review Board?

-response provided by Ms. McGraw

Comments provided by Commissioner Terry

Question ML: District attorney; is there anything you heard today that gives you pause?

-response provided by District Attorney Boston

Question MDJ: what systems do we have if any that would ensure public confidence and when is GBI brought into an investigation?

-response provided by District Attorney Sherry Boston

Question RP: Is it the same process for DKPD verse municipalities or another department?

-response provided by District Attorney Sherry Boston

Question RP: do you keep data on these types of instances, how do we compare of others?

-response provided by District Attorney Sherry Boston

Question RP: Do you make policy recommendations

SB: we make recommendations but I have zero authority of enactment

Question MDJ: Often times civil suits can be brought forward ; can you expand the difference between the burden of proof of a civil case verse and criminal matter

SB: in a criminal case we have to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Question MDJ: often times civil suits may come up in these situations; can you explain the difference in the burden of proof for a civil verse criminal case?

SB: Context provided. I wouldn't say it would rise to a civil recommendation, it's an administrative recommendation which is a lesser burden

Comments provided by Commissioner Terry

SB: I did want to provide a few questions I believe need to be answered moving forward. 1. I am unclear what is contemplated by a review board, I would be curious as to what departments/agencies would be a part of the review processes. 2. one note epically with Atlanta; one thing I believe needs to be considered, is actions or information of investigations that confidential.

TT: as it states now it would be to just the police department, and as alluded too in the previous presentation is communication. I think that is paramount. Our next meeting we will speak with Chief Ramos on internal processes.

Question RP: to County Attorney; the BOC couldn't adopt something and implement them onto the cities

VE: I believe that is correct, we would likely need an IGA. I also think the DA has made a great point that there are other constitutional officers such as the Marshalls work with the Courts and the Sheriff's Office

Question MDJ: who will be available at the next meeting from the DAs office ?

Response provided by DA Boston

MDJ: please provide his contact information

-TT: motion defer 30 days

## 2024-0506

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts  
Home Rule Ordinance to amend the Pension Code of DeKalb County, Georgia, 1962 Ga. Laws 3088, as amended, to provide for an increase in monthly pension benefit amount to specified eligible retirees, joint annuitants, and beneficiaries.

**This agenda item was No recommendation to the Board of Commissioners due back on 6/25/2024 .**

*TT: I'd like to send this back to the Board of Commissioners and possibly have the presentation expected today at the Tuesday meeting.*

### III. AGENDA ITEM

#### *New Agenda Items*

#### **Police Services**

- [2024-0718](#) Commission District(s): All Commission Districts  
Grant Acceptance - FY24 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Grant, \$276,156.00  
**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 6/25/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:**  
**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Terry, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Long Spears**

*Information provided by Captain Albritton, COS Police Department*

*-MDJ: motion to approve*

#### **Fire Rescue**

- [2024-0754](#) Commission District(s): All Commission Districts  
Extension of Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Brookhaven for Public Safety, Fire and Emergency parking and break facilities through December 31, 2024 and ratification of previous extension.  
**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 6/25/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:**  
**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Terry, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Long Spears**

*Information provided by Chief Fullum*

*Question MLS: was there any supporting documentation for this item*

*Fullum: no, we do have the original contract from 2018*

*MLS: please forward that to me*

*Question TT: this is through the end of the year?*

*Fullum: correct*

*Question TT: is the intent to work out something longer?*

*Fullum: yes that could happen. Additional comments provided.*

*MDJ: motion to approve*

Meeting Ended At:3:30 PM

**MOTION was made by Michelle Long Spears, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be adjourned meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Terry, Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Long Spears**

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Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC