



May 30, 2019

Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms
Council President Felicia Moore
Members of the Atlanta City Council
Atlanta City Hall
55 Trinity Avenue, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mayor Bottoms, President Moore, and Members of the City Council:

I am writing to express concerns of the Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods and other citizens of the City of Atlanta regarding the continued release of offenders who have been charged with serious and violent crimes.

There is no greater responsibility for government – at all levels – than protecting the public. That is why I am requesting that the City of Atlanta evaluate the transfer the City Detention Center (City Jail) to Fulton County so that serious offenders – including repeat offenders – can be housed and not released to commit more crimes.

As you know, the Fulton County Commission offered to purchase the City Jail during the Reed Administration. However, Mayor Reed vastly over-priced the Jail, thus, preventing the sale.

With a new Mayor and City Council, I am hopeful that a reasonable negotiation can proceed quickly.

To give you an example of our concern regarding the release of offenders back into our City, I have enclosed a 45-page document that lists the offenders who have been released from the Fulton County Jail in 2019 on a signature bond.

Offenses include:

- a. "Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon; Possession of Firearm or Knife During Commission of Felony"
- b. "Possession of sawed-off shotgun, sawed-off rifle, machine gun, dangerous weapon or silencer; theft by shoplifting"
- c. "Aggravated Assault with intent to rob; Hijacking Motor Vehicle; Possession of Firearm during commission of Felony"
- d. "Willful obstruction of law enforcement officer w/threats or violence; willful obstruction of law enforcement; failure to obey traffic laws (3 cts.); reckless driving; driving w/license suspended or revoked"
- e. "Criminal trespass; battery/family violence; cruelty to children/3rd degree (2 cts.)"

- a. "FTA aggravated assault w/deadly weapon; FTA armed robbery; FTA hijacking motor vehicle; FTA possession of firearm during commission of a felony; FTA robbery"
- b. "Battery/substantial physical harm (2 cts.)"
- c. "Aggravated assault/strangulation; criminal trespass"
- d. "Criminal damage to property/2nd degree; theft by receiving stolen property; reckless driving; expired/no license plate."
- e. "Cruelty to children/3rd degree (3 cts.); aggravated assault/family violence; possession of knife during commission of a felony."

It is our understanding that the Fulton County Jail is at – or almost at – capacity. Therefore, the City of Atlanta's Detention Center can play an important role in protecting our innocent citizens and visitors. It is clear that a crisis exists and serious reform is needed regarding perpetrators in our City and County. I am sure that you agree with our concern and that something should be done immediately.

Your constituents pay taxes to both the City of Atlanta and Fulton County. We need to know that our voices are heard and that our tax dollars are being put to the best possible use.

It is our request that Task Force, whose purpose is to evaluate potential uses for the City Jail, has all relevant information on our criminal justice system's procedures, policies and operations, including but not limited to, the cost of renovations to the Jail for any future purpose being contemplated, the housing of current City of Atlanta offenders, as well as an analysis of the daily disposition of Fulton County arrestees and a daily count of the number of inmates held in the Fulton County Jail during the past two years.

It is also our request that this process be fully transparent.

The Fulton County Commission has been copied on this letter, as we are certain that both governments are equally concerned for the safety of our lives and property.

The laudable goal of providing services, particularly to women in need, helping them regain their lives and dignity can be accomplished at another available city facility, such as the 72 Marietta Street Building, where there is abundant space that can be utilized.

Surely, we can come together as a government on something as important as public safety.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Norwood
Chair
Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

Cc Chairman Robb Pitts
Fulton County Commissioners