



Regarding City of Atlanta [Ordinance 21-O-0367](#)
On Behalf of the [South River Forest Coalition](#)
8.13.2021

The South River Forest Coalition remains steadfast that the proposed public safety training center should be built at a different location. See the official SRFC statement [HERE](#). However, if the legislation to lease the Prison Farm (Ordinance 21-O-0367) is going forward at the Monday, August 16th Council meeting, we urge councilmembers to propose and seriously consider placing the following conditions on your decision:

1. Change the legislation to read “Preserve 265 instead of 170 acres of greenspace for public purposes.”
2. Prior to lease execution, the City of Atlanta and/or APF will commit funding or other land assets to compensate for the loss of 85 acres at the Atlanta Prison Farm. The City should consider the decommissioned Intrinishment Creek Water Reclamation Center and existing APD shooting range north of Key Road as part of this compensation package.
3. Prior to lease execution, APF will provide City Council documentation from funders disclosing their private funding commitments.
4. Prior to lease execution, APF will provide a prospectus on the annual cost to the City of operating and maintaining the facilities.
5. Prior to lease execution, APF will provide documentation on the rationale for the 85 acres referred to as the minimum built acres.
6. Prior to site development, APF will sign a community benefits agreement with the South River Forest Coalition and other relevant representatives of the local community that outlines an engagement process for decisions around key siting, design, and operating details so that the facilities’ positive impacts are maximized, and its negative impacts are minimized and mitigated.
7. Prior to site development, APF will go through a public rezoning process in DeKalb County to change the existing single-family residential zoning category to one suited for the new facilities.
8. Prior to site development, APF will conduct Phase 1 & 2 environmental reviews, taking special effort to provide Council with assurances that potential areas of soil and groundwater contamination are fully remediated, and that its new facilities will not negatively impact downstream conditions in the South River watershed, which has been named the fourth most endangered river in the United States.
9. Prior to site development, in its environmental review, APF will identify and protect historic landscapes that are eligible for review by the state historic preservation office and for listing in the National Register, including a Section 106 review if applicable. These include the Key Plantation, Atlanta Prison Farm structures and ruins, historic farmland terracing, water features, viewshed of Soapstone Ridge, and Carnegie Library stones. APF will take special care to provide Council with assurances that the new facilities will not damage or displace archaeological artifacts, including human remains, related to the site’s history as a place of incarceration.
10. Prior to site development, APF will provide a detailed report that gives the Council confidence that the noise, smoke, and other impacts generated by the shooting range, bomb detonation, burn building and other facilities will not subject the City of Atlanta to credible nuisance litigation by adjacent communities and businesses.
11. Prior to site development, APF will conduct and provide to Council a report that demonstrates how its explosives, other munition constituents, and fire, foam, or other contaminants, will address the EPA’s concerns about their toxicity and human health and ecological impacts as identified by the Handbook on Explosives.
12. Prior to site development, APF will confirm that a burn building at this location is in compliance with the FAA.
13. Prior to site development, APF will partner with a reputable parks’ organization such as Park Pride to drive the community engagement processes necessary for the City to establish a 265-acre greenspace for public purposes.
14. Prior to site development, the City of Atlanta and/or APF will commit through grant, contract, or other legal instruments at least \$30 million of the public and private funding imagined for the public safety training center to activate the public greenspace.