






The Franklin Commitments for the City of Atlanta

-  Safe & Clean City
-  Financial Stability
-  Strong Infrastructure
-  Efficient & Effective
-  Open & Honest

AUGUST 30, 2005

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Atlanta Responds to Hurricane Katrina

At a news conference today, Mayor Shirley Franklin was joined by representatives from the Red Cross, city government and faith-based communities to offer condolences and support to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Atlanta reaches out its arms and heart across the many miles to tell these cities that have been affected that we are here to help and assist in any way that we can, said Mayor Franklin.

Hurricane Katrina hit approximately 500 miles of the Gulf Coast on Monday and has left cities in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana flooded and thousands without power. The worst of these is Louisiana, which has experienced severe flooding, causing an overwhelming 80 percent of some cities to be submerged below sea level. There are 450,000 people on the waiting list for shelter, and 300,000 of these will need to be evacuated within 24 hours.

Tim English, a representative from the Red Cross of America said that some 450 people fleeing the gulf are being housed throughout the metro Atlanta area. It is believed that the numbers could increase over the next few days.

The City of Atlanta has opened the Adamsville Recreation Center as a shelter center and people are already staying at that facility.

Other City departments involved in the relief effort include the Atlanta Fire Rescue who is planning to send two firefighters to Louisiana tonight and plan to hold a fire engine and a ladder truck equipped with crew on standby. An Atlanta Police Department helicopter will also be dispatched to Jackson County.

Members of the faith-based community were also at the news conference to appeal to churches, synagogues, mosques to offer financial support and volunteer resources to the American Red Cross during this devastating crisis.

Hurricane Katrina is the largest hurricane disaster since 1881 and the Red Cross will need plenty of donations and volunteers. To make donations to the Hurricane Katrina relief effort, call 1.800.HELPNOW. To make a donation on the Internet, visit www.atlantaredcross.org. To volunteer with the Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter of the American Red Cross call 404.876.3302.



Tim English, a representative from the Red Cross, joins Mayor Franklin and several City of Atlanta departments including Atlanta Fire Rescue, Atlanta Police Department and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs to discuss Atlanta's response to Hurricane Katrina.

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Fort McPherson Closing Impacts Atlanta Region

The Base Realignment and Closure Commissions (BRAC) decision to support the United States Department of Defense's (DOD) recommendation to close Fort McPherson has a major impact on the greater Atlanta region.

We are disappointed with the BRAC Commissions decision given Ft. McPherson's rich military history and its importance to the Atlanta region. We share the concern of others regarding the well-being of the 4,820 military and civilian men and women who work at Ft. McPherson and the 130,000 retirees in the Atlanta region and beyond who rely on the military base for services, said Mayor Franklin.

It was the City of Atlanta's hope that the BRAC Commission would recognize the military significance of Fort McPherson. Its close proximity to the world's busiest airport makes it an unparalleled location for the transfer of military troops, she continued.

The City of Atlanta is working with the Governor's office and the DOD to comply with the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of

1990. A local planning redevelopment authority will be created to address the future of the site.

In May, Mayor Franklin appointed Felker Ward, a retired military colonel, attorney and president of an investment advisory firm to chair the McPherson Redevelopment Authority (McPherson Planning LRA). Ward is a recognized leader in Atlanta and is a civilian Aide Emeritus to the Secretary of the Army.

The McPherson Planning LRA will be responsible for planning the reuse of the facility. The McPherson Planning LRA will engage in a process that includes the City of East Point, other neighbors and stakeholders.

As of yesterday, 14 bases have been recommended for closure, including Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem, a satellite installation of Fort McPherson.

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Atlanta Crime Lowest in Decades

Atlanta is making historic strides when it comes to reducing crime. During a recent Atlanta Police Department (APD) recruit graduation ceremony, Police Chief Richard Pennington announced that crime in Atlanta is the lowest in decades.

Within the past two years, each of Atlantas seven major crime categories has experienced lows. Trends for 2005 indicate overall crime will be its lowest since 1969, while homicide appears on course to decrease by 50 percent in two years.

Upon his arrival in 2002, Chief Pennington spearheaded the Fragile Momentum Plan of Action. The Plan is a comprehensive re-organization of the APD to decrease crime and increase the APDs partnership with the community in improving overall quality of life.

Among these initiatives was the Command Operations Briefing to Revitalize Atlanta (COBRA) accountability system. COBRA monitors the crime statistics of the department by zones, increasing accountability among officers and zone commanders.

At the graduation ceremony, Chief Pennington said the combined experience of the recruits will make the APD a stronger and more effective squad. Of the 64 recruits, 25 hold bachelors degrees, two hold masters degrees and 16 have at least one year of college experience or more.

The 64 new recruits will join the 1600 Atlanta police officers that patrol the 131 square miles of Atlanta. The departments goal is to increase the police squad to 2000 sworn officers.

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (HJAIA) General Manager Ben DeCosta offered the keynote address. At the ceremony, DeCosta, who is the brother of a New York police officer, thanked the APD for its commitment to helping HJAIA be among the best airports in the world.



Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (HJIA) General Manager Ben DeCosta offers keynote speech at a recent Atlanta Police recruit graduation.

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Vendor Expo is a Success for Prime and Minority Business Owners

The City's Office of Contract Compliance (OCC) held its annual Vendor Expo last week. Vendor Expo is the City of Atlanta's largest networking and information gathering event for minority and prime contractors who want to do business with the city.

The all-day event was held at the Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center. Over 80 exhibitors including Home Depot, CH2M Hill and MGT of America participated. Approximately 400 vendors and visitors attended the expo.

There were two sessions at this year's event. The morning session included an overview of OCC and a question and answer session. The afternoon session included a panel discussion on best ways to do business with the city, which was facilitated by Bruce Bell, Chief Operating Officer for OCC. The afternoon session ended with a question and answer session, followed by a networking event with contractors and City of Atlanta officials.

Don Wilson, vice-president of business development for Spectrum 1 Wireless, attended this year's event for the first time. Wilson said the Expo gave his company an incredible amount of insight.

Vendor Expo is pivotal to developing small businesses. They make all of the seemingly convoluted processes for conducting business with the government seem like a breeze.



Vendor Expo 2005 was held at the Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center last Thursday and is the largest information-gathering and networking event for minority and female owned enterprises that want to do business with the City of Atlanta.

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Westview Lofts Spur Revitalization in West End Corridor

Today Mayor Shirley Franklin and City Councilmember Clea Winslow (District 4) attended the grand opening celebration of the new Westview Lofts on Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard, a new residential and commercial development.

Westview consists of 21 residential and seven commercial lofts for lease. The lofts were constructed by Cooperative Resource Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of affordable housing for low and moderate income Georgians. The Atlanta Development Authority (ADA) contributed loans for the construction of Westview.

At the grand opening, Mayor Franklin took a tour of the neighborhood. The formerly abandoned area now has several storefront properties including a mens clothier, an art gallery and a nail salon. A basketball court has been added and a courtyard gazebo and fenced community garden is also being planned for the area.

The good news is that these units are 100 percent leased which shows the communitys re-investment in this neighborhood. This is a perfect example of how building something new can revitalize a neighborhood and promote community, Mayor Franklin said.

The Westview community center is the nucleus of the project and sits at the corner of Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard and Inman Street. The community center will be used for neighborhood meetings and may house a workout area. A red light was erected at the intersection for pedestrians who live and shop in the area.

Representatives from Cooperative Resource Center, FIB Economic Development Corporation and GWL Construction were also present at the groundbreaking.



Atlanta Developer Paul Stang gives Mayor Franklin, Lonnie Saboor, Manager of Small Business & Industrial Finance at Atlanta Development Authority and Reverend Timothy McDonald a guided tour to see the new Westview Lofts developments on Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. Westview is a mixed-use development that will have 21 residential units and seven commercial units.

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City Uses New Technology to Crack Down on Red Light Running

This week the City of Atlanta will join other cities across the nation for National Stop on Red Week. The Department of Public Works (DPW) will be distributing literature on red light running at community meetings to recognize the event.

To curb the amount of drivers that run red lights, five red light cameras are being installed at various intersections throughout Atlanta. Warning signs are also being posted and a 30-day warning period for all violators will be in effect. At the end of the warning period, citations will be issued.

This is a valuable program thats going to make driving in Atlanta safer for motorists and pedestrians, said Public Works Commissioner David Scott. Red light runners are a leading cause of crashes and camera enforcement has been proven to reduce those crashes.

The cameras will be installed at the intersections of the following streets: Peachtree and Lenox Road; Peachtree and Piedmont Road; Buford Highway and Lenox Road; Northside Parkway & West Paces Ferry Road and Spring Street and North Avenue.

For more information on the week and the problem of red light running visit www.stoppedlightrunning.com.

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Music Fest Returns to Jazz Up Labor Day Weekend

Beginning this Friday, the Montreux Jazz Festival in Atlanta will return to the city for the Labor Day weekend.

The Montreux Jazz Festival is Switzerland's internationally acclaimed musical celebration. This year's event is being presented by the City of Atlanta and the Woodruff Arts Center.

The festival will feature a broad array of jazz concerts, lectures, films and workshops. There will be 16 ticketed events held in the Woodruff Arts Center's Symphony Hall, Rich Theatre and Alliance Theatre. The Woodruff Callaway Plaza will become an outdoor stage featuring free local and regional music acts, open to the public.

Some artists on the roster include jazz musicians Keith Jarrett and Eddie Palmieri; blues greats Buddy Guy and Pinetop Perkins; and neo-soul singer Julie Dexter.

To purchase tickets or for more information contact the Woodruff's box office at 404-733-5000 or go to www.woodruffcentertickets.org.

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Rave Reviews!



Mayor Shirley Franklin offers greetings at the 2005 Unveiling of the International Civil Rights Hall of Fame last Friday. Each honoree contributed their shoes that were later etched into granite footprints. The permanent exhibit is located at the Martin Luther King Jr. national historic site. Among those honored were Henry Hank Aaron, Ralph E. McGill, Ted Turner, Nancy Wilson, Reverend Addie Wyatt, Harry Belafonte, Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Mayor Maynard Jackson, Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, Judge Elbert P. Tuttle, Sr. and Dick Gregory.





The National Coalition of 100 Black Women-Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter honor Mayor Shirley Franklin and Trumpet Awards founder Xermona Clayton at its annual Unsung Heroines Awards banquet. Unsung Heroines Banquet co-chairs Helen Childs and Patti Mouton pose with Mayor Shirley Franklin, Xermona Clayton and 100 Black Women Metropolitan Atlanta President Virginia Harris. At the ceremony, in lieu of the traditional gift, the 100 Black Women-Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter donated to the City of Atlanta's public education initiative Next Step The Atlanta Promise which provides college scholarships, support and training to Atlanta's high school seniors.

- The Honorable Mayor Mao Guanglie of Ningbo City, China visited Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin last Monday. In their meeting, Mayor Franklin and Mayor Mao discussed enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese and American people, developing friendly relations and cooperation between the two cities and formally establishing a friendship-city relationship. Ningbo's industries are concentrated in areas of information and electronic technology, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, and petro-chemicals.
- Atlanta Police say farewell to Sgt. Constance Locke after 15 years with the department. Locke was the department's Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual and Transgender (GLBT) liaison, and worked to promote cooperation and trust between its communities. Locke also created, developed and presented lesson plans covering topics like Understanding the Gay and Lesbian Community, Hate/Bias Crimes, Citizens with Disabilities, and Survival Spanish. The APD is currently looking for sworn officers to fill Locke's GLBT position.



Mayor Franklin attends University of Georgia's 3rd Annual Black Faculty and Staff Organization Luncheon (BFSO), which awards scholarships to a black undergraduate and graduate student at UGA. She is joined by BFSO committee chair Debra Watson, Timothy Rice (2005 undergraduate recipient), Tenesha Littleton (2005 graduate recipient), and BFSO President Linda Brawner.





Executive Director of the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency Deborah Lum, Mayor Shirley Franklin and Atlanta Development Authority's Bamey Sims provide rising Clayton State University freshman Phillisssa R. Chisom with a laptop computer. Chisom was a participant in the City of Atlanta's public education initiative Next Step. The Atlanta Promise program. The laptop computers were part of in-kind donations that several companies have made to Next Step. The Atlanta Promise.

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Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

- On October 5, 2005, the Department of Planning and Community Development will host a Developers Day from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the atrium of City Hall. Representatives from the Bureau of Buildings, the Bureau of Planning, the Department of Watershed Management, the Bureau of Drinking Water, the Department of Fire, and the Atlanta Development Authority will be available to discuss revisions to the new permitting process and the steps involved.
- This week MC DEAN will return to the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency (AWDA) to recruit licensed electricians, apprentice electricians, telecommunications technicians, CADD operators, a Project Administrator with construction experience and a Project Engineer. All candidates should secure applications from Evan Campbell and schedule an appointment to meet with the MC DEAN Representative upon submitting their application.
- On Saturday, September 24, the Atlanta Fire Department will host the 5K Road Race. Proceeds from this year's race will be used to fund scholarships for graduating seniors from Washington High School. The race will begin at 8:00 a.m. at AFD Station 16 located at 1048 Simpson Road, approximately one mile west of the Georgia Dome. For more information contact Jolene Butts Freeman at fire_pio@atlantaga.gov.
- The City of Atlanta and the Woodruff Arts Center need volunteers to help with the Montreux Jazz Festival in Atlanta. The festival will kick-off this Friday and continue throughout Labor Day Weekend (September 2-4, 2005). If you are interested in volunteering or know someone who would be interested in volunteering, contact Kristie Brice at the Woodruff Arts Center via email at kristie.brice@woodruffcenter.org.

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Job Announcements

Each week, we will feature details of a position from the current City of Atlanta job vacancy list.

Featured Position: Legal Secretary

Persons applying must have a high diploma or GED and one year of secretarial experience in a law office; and type 50 wpm. Candidate must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills, have a high level of professionalism; must be detail oriented, reliable and exhibit a high level of confidentiality and integrity. Must be proficient in Microsoft Word and Outlook. Must have some knowledge of online legal research. Equivalent combinations of training and experience will be determined under prescribed guidelines.

For a list of jobs offered through the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency, [click here](#).

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Weekly Features

Email us at citynewsbytes@atlantaga.gov to provide your feedback about this newsletter or to nominate someone you know for Stakeholder Spotlight.

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Mayor's Office
404-330-6100

Mayor's Office of Constituent Services
404-330-6023

Mayor's Office of Communications
404-330-6004

Mayor's Office of Community Technology
404-880-7220

Mayor's Office of Weed and Seed
404-330-6086

City Council
404-330-6030

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