



# DeKalb County Government

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

## **DRAFT - Minutes**

### **ERPS-Employee Relations & Public Safety Committee**

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Thursday, August 25, 2022

1:00 PM

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#### **Special Called Meeting**

*This meeting will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Simultaneous public access to the meeting will be available*

*(1) via live stream on DCTV's webpage,*

*(2) on DCTVChannel23.TV*

Meeting Started At: 1:00 PM

Attendees: Commissioners Terry, Bradshaw, Rader

**Present**      3 - Commissioner Ted Terry, Commissioner Jeff Rader, and  
Commissioner Steve Bradshaw

#### **I AGENDA ITEM**

[2021-3499](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts  
DeKalb County's adoption of a safe gun storage ordinance to  
impact and prevent accidental injuries and deaths.

**MOTION was made by Jeff Rader, seconded by Steve  
Bradshaw, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral  
to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 9/13/2022. The  
motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Terry, Commissioner Rader, and Commissioner  
Bradshaw**

-information provided by Commissioner Terry

-information provided by County Attorney Ernestes on the draft ordinance

-Question SB: is it your opinion that this ordinance is in contradiction to existing state law?

V Ernestes: I think it would be more appropriate for me to give you that opinion offline. I can say publicly that there are legal issues related to this ordinance

-Question TT: the legislature passed a law that said that citizens do not have to get a handgun permit anymore. Is it voluntary now that you can get a permit, and how does that affect us?

-response provided by County Attorney Ernestes

-Question SB: what is the course forward here?

TT: in the past we've sent an item to the full board with no recommendation

-SB: I'd rather have that sidebar conversation with the County attorney before moving forward. If we pass this what is the practical effect? I would like to defer action until that conversation has taken place

-Question JR: is there a means to perfect this to a useful end consistent with state law?

V Ernestes: no sir

-Question JR: so you're saying the County cannot regulate the way that an individual would store firearms?

V Ernestes: I don't believe that would be appropriate for me to answer in public

-JR: maybe we should figure out a way to provide gun locks. We should at the least distribute them, and those that want to avoid tragedy may be interested in this

-TT: I don't want to just pass a resolution saying we're against gun violence, because of course we are. But what are we going to do about it?

-JR: perhaps there is a model for a gun safety community, much like there are keep America beautiful communities

-TT: let's defer this item for another 30 days, and at an upcoming ERPS meeting hear from the Public Safety staff on their thoughts on education and providing those opportunities for gun safety measures, as well as their take on where the guns are coming from - sometimes it may be from gun stores. From an ordinance, what can we do to reduce gun violence?

-response provided by COO Williams

-TT: this is part of a larger Public Safety strategy as well. Additional comments provided by Commissioner Terry

-JR: motion to defer 30 days

2022-1764

Commission District(s): District 7

A Resolution of the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia to Acknowledge Gun Violence as a Public Health Crisis and to Call upon Federal, State and Local Legislators and Elected Officials to Pass Common Sense Gun Control Legislation to Reduce Gun Violence, Homicides and Mass Murders.

**MOTION was made by Steve Bradshaw, seconded by Jeff Rader, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 9/13/2022. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Terry, Commissioner Rader, and Commissioner Bradshaw**

*-information provided by Commissioner Terry*

*-Question SB: didn't the President just sign a bipartisan gun law within the last few weeks?*

*-TT: it was a compromise bill in the Senate*

*-SB: if we're calling on the Federal government to act, it seems they have done that to their extent*

*-TT: the resolution language could be tweaked. There could be a friendly amendment*

*-JR: several of the clauses speak to specific actions or programs, and I don't know if they were accomplished with the Federal regulation. I think that this does contain other provisions that need to be supported and could be part of our legislative agenda. If they are accomplished, I don't think there's harm in passing it. Of course the assault weapons provision in this did not get accomplished. But I think the format may be a bit tenuous, in that these may be re-resolved to support these issues*

*-V Ernestes: I will work with the sponsor of this resolution to include references of the new Federal law; we'll take a look at it for Commissioner Cochran-Johnson in light of the new law*

*-TT: would this be something we would include in the legislative packet and discuss further in the OPS committee?*

*-SB: that's probably a better construct*

*-TT: let's defer this for now and circle back with Commissioner Cochran-Johnson on some of these details*

*-SB: motion to defer 30 days*

## 2022-1656

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

To Amend the Code of DeKalb County, Georgia, As Revised 1988, Chapter 20, Article VIII, to Recognize General Election Day as a Paid County Holiday.

**This agenda item was recommended holding in committee to the ERPS-Employee Relations & Public Safety Committee due back on 9/6/2022 .**

*-JR: my stance has been that we rather ensure that our County policy is to PTO for the purpose of facilitating voting is made more robust to ensure your employment with DeKalb County is not an impediment to voting. I think that the County should remain open for service delivery. I would hope the Administration would develop a policy to address that aspect*

*-Question TT: COO Williams it was indicated that PTO provided would be the preference?*

*Z Williams: right; something to the effect of the PTO that Commissioner Rader suggested?*

*-response provided by Commissioner Rader*

*-TT: I would think that 4 hours would be fine to. The 8 hours would be great. But if a half-day is what the committee is thinking I am fine with that*

*-information provided by County Attorney Ernestes, Laura Johnson of the Law Department*

*-TT: Commissioners I think we're leaning toward 4 hours, if you all like that direction lets work on that*

*-SB: that is fine with me*

*-L Johnson: we can work with that; is there additional information on the format that could be provided?*

*-TT: if we had a draft policy whereby the CEO updates the employee policy/handbook and that accomplishes this - it would be fine. If Law and the Administration wouldn't mind having something before us by September 6th that would be great*

*-recommended holding in committee*

## II. DISCUSSION

Metro South CID

-presentation provided by Larry Kaiser, Director of the Metro South CID regarding truck congestion on Continental Way

-TT: this is a moment where there isn't just one department that can't solve the issue. Is it true that most of these truckers aren't only local truckers and could come from other states? It's not something we can just educate our way out. The PILOT truck stop is a good location but not a huge facility. We have been speaking with Law, Public Safety, Police, and Transportation on this.

-Question SB: are you making a specific ask of us today?

-L Kaiser: after speaking to the Law department we can't treat this as a nuisance in this instance of traffic congestion. The ask is whatever you can do to help. There isn't a technical solution to this.

-TT: I have proposed the idea of studying this; perhaps Continental being a two lane one-way road going east to Bouldercrest. That way if backup was happening into the PILOT facility, it would only backup one road instead of the situation there now. I also got to a dead end on what the solutions might be. We heard from COO Williams and Chief Ramos on short term solutions and what could be done. I would like to discuss a plan of action on what we could do

-information provided by COO Williams on potential options to address

-TT: I think the main issue is that they are parking but some are also looking for service at PILOT. They're not necessarily parking, they are queuing to get in. another solution, is that we can say that 'you cannot do a left turn on that road'.

-Z Williams: I believe Mr. Pelton is looking into that possibility as well

-additional information provided by Transportation Director David Pelton

-Question TT: what is the timeline on the GDOT project?

D Pelton: A timeline on a big interchange like that will probably be around 3 years

-TT: there is a clear public safety threat here. How could emergency services respond when seconds could mean life or death. I don't think we can wait years for a study, and short-term solutions could lead into a grander long-term solution. Based on what we know, we should come up with short- and medium-term solutions.

-Question TT: what's the usual solution when you don't want someone to turn left?

-response provided by Director Pelton

-information provided by Director Kaiser

-TT: I have requested the CEO Thurmond reach out to the CEO of Pilot. Local representatives from Pilot have the response that 'it's not my job' to address these issues. What I'm hearing is there are potential solutions in the short term.

-Z Williams: I would like the opportunity for the Transportation team to evaluate your proposed solution, reviewing the consequences of the action

-Question TT: can we have a response on that by next week?

D Pelton: yes

Meeting Ended At: 2:15 PM

**MOTION was made by Jeff Rader, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be adjourned meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Terry, Commissioner Rader, and Commissioner Bradshaw**

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Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC