



DeKalb County Government

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

Agenda Item

File ID: 2025-1107

Substitute

1/9/2026

Public Hearing: YES ☐ NO ☒

Department: Police Services

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

Substitute Agenda Item 2025-1107 With The Public Safety, Community Engagement, And Equal Service Joint Policy Statement.

Information Contact: Greg A. Padrick, Chief of Police

Phone Number: (770) 724-7433

PURPOSE:

A request to accept the substitute agenda item for 2025-1107 with the Public Safety, Community Engagement, and Equal Service Joint Policy Statement.

NEED/IMPACT:

The DeKalb County Police Department serves a diverse and dynamic community. To ensure trust, accountability, and effectiveness in policing while maintaining operational integrity, the Governing Authority establishes the following guiding pillars to inform community engagement and public-safety practices countywide.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Unknown at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

- To approve the substitution and to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute all the necessary documents.

**A JOINT POLICY STATEMENT
BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
ON PUBLIC SAFETY, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND EQUAL SERVICE**

Policy Statement:

The Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia affirms its commitment to public safety, constitutional policing, and the fair and equitable treatment of all residents.

The DeKalb County Police Department serves a diverse and dynamic community. To ensure trust, accountability, and effectiveness in policing while maintaining operational integrity, the Governing Authority establishes the following guiding pillars to inform community engagement and public-safety practices countywide.

Guiding Pillars:

1. Equal Service and Constitutional Policing: The County affirms that public safety services shall be delivered equitably and without distinction, preference, or segmentation. Policing strategies and engagement efforts must be grounded in constitutional principles, professional standards, and equal protection under the law, ensuring that every resident receives consistent, respectful, and lawful service.

2. Inclusive and Broad-Based Community Engagement: The County recognizes that meaningful community engagement strengthens trust and cooperation between residents and law enforcement. Engagement efforts should be inclusive, accessible, and open to all residents, fostering transparency and shared responsibility for public safety while avoiding structures that may unintentionally fragment participation or create perceptions of preferential access.

3. Operational Integrity, Safety, and Sustainability: The County affirms the importance of preserving the operational discretion of the DeKalb County Police Department to allocate resources, structure outreach efforts, and adapt strategies in response to evolving public-safety needs. Any engagement initiatives or programs must demonstrably support community and officer safety, align with constitutional and professional standards, and remain sustainable within available resources.

The Governing Authority acknowledges these pillars as guiding principles to assist the DeKalb County Police Department and relevant County entities as strategies are collaboratively developed and implemented. This policy statement is intended to provide clarity of purpose and alignment, while allowing flexibility to respond thoughtfully to future challenges and community needs.

The Governing Authority and the DeKalb County Police Department reaffirm their unified commitment to safety, fairness, professionalism, and inclusive service for every resident of DeKalb County.