

## OUR CONCERNS

We, the Concerned Citizens for Cityhood in South DeKalb (CCCSD), believe that we can create a healthy, vibrant city that will generate economic growth and enrich the quality of life for residents within our boundaries. We are concerned that remaining as an unincorporated territory within DeKalb county will leave our commercial assets unprotected for others to seize, leave us vulnerable to bearing the burden of the pension fund, and inhibit our ability to focus on economic development in southern DeKalb. This statement expresses the people's support for cityhood.

## WHAT WE'VE DONE REGARDING OUR CONCERNS

We have had at least **142 meetings** since June 2014 relating to cityhood. We have traversed the length and breadth of south DeKalb (approximately 295,000 people). We have collected data, made presentations, and spoken to or met with residents, businesses, churches, elected officials, legislators, Mayors, HOAs, lawyers, students, representatives from other cities, representatives from other proposed cities, the Atlanta Regional Commission, and corporations who handle startup cities. At most of our public meetings, we have asked people's opinions about what they want to see happen. Almost unanimously, people have told us that they do not want to remain as unincorporated DeKalb. CCCSD's leadership consists of residents who have spent close to a total of a thousand hours volunteering their time and energy (and that doesn't include time spent by other volunteers). Given all of this, we believe that we have the right to say **WE REPRESENT THE PEOPLE AND WE ARE THE PEOPLE!**

Some of our current planning work consists of the following:

- We have a lawyer working to draft a charter.
- We are working with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) on finalizing the internal boundaries of our Community Area Planning Units (CAPUs).
- We have and continue to meet with corporations who have contracted with other cities for startup services to compare who best fits our needs.

## THE SOLUTION WE PROPOSE

Forming a city out of South DeKalb will address all the concerns listed above. It will permanently protect our commercial assets, protect us from being the only ones funding the pension plan (which we agree needs to be funded), and allow us to focus on economic development within southern DeKalb. Once the city is formed, as 41% of the county population it can provide strong support to the county by advocating for an equitable payment from all cities toward the pension plan. No other solution offers this level of protection for South DeKalb residents or this opportunity to protect the health of the county.

The following summarizes the advantages and benefits of forming a city.

Benefit	Unincorporated	Large City
<b>Low Taxes</b>	X	X
<b>Protection from annexation of commercial assets</b>		X
<b>Protection from South DeKalb being the only area paying for the pension plan</b>		X
<b>Focus on improvement of services in <i>South DeKalb</i></b>		X
<b>Focus on economic development and jobs in <i>South DeKalb</i></b>		X
<b>Ability to leverage large amounts of revenue</b>	X	X
<b>Ability to have consensus in planning for a large area</b>	X	X
<b>Ability to compete regionally</b>	X	X

**WE ARE THE PEOPLE; WE REPRESENT THE PEOPLE; AND THE PEOPLE WANT CITYHOOD!!!!**