

Reimagining the Atlanta City Detention Center

Year in Review | 2019-2020



Drawing by Designing Justice + Designing Spaces



The Year In Review provides an opportunity to reflect on the importance of all the people, efforts, steps, and strategies implemented in Phase One to drive progress on one of the city's most historic undertakings - transforming the Atlanta City Detention Center (ACDC) into a Center for Equity.



CITY OF ATLANTA
MAYOR KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS

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“The time is always right to do what is right.” – Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Message from the Mayor

Dear Neighbors:

I've often told the story of coming home from school to find my father being led away by the police. My dad - a star to many, a husband and provider to our family, and a superhero to me - was facing financial difficulties and, with a family to support, had difficult decisions to make. His ultimate choice was not a good one, but it is the choice that too many people find themselves making in an effort to make ends meet. Good people, facing formidable circumstances, often make bad choices. But what if we had the power to expand their choices? What if we could minimize seemingly insurmountable hardships? What if we could reward good people with good opportunities? Those are some of the questions I have asked myself since that life-altering day from my childhood, and those are the answers I set out to find immediately upon being sworn in as Mayor.

Just as I used to reimagine what my life might have been like had my father never been sent to prison, I, alongside officials from our Administration and committed leaders from various communities, set out to reimagine criminal justice in Atlanta. Interestingly, the results of those musings were similar, both visioning a city where parents were not separated from their children, families could earn respectable livings and afford their homes, and a safety net of resources awaited any neighbor who needed direction or a helping hand. This vision is not mine alone. It is the same vision that Atlanta's Drum Major for Justice, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. envisioned when he spoke of the Beloved Community nearly 65 years ago.

I am proud of the strides towards equity our Administration has taken over the past three years - ending cash bail, closing our detention centers to ICE, paying our public safety officers livable wages so that they can afford to live in and have authentic relationships with the communities in which they work, providing workforce development opportunities

to residents who have paid their debt to society, and decriminalizing marijuana in Atlanta, but the demands of our day require that we do more. In June, the Reimagining ACDC Task Force sent recommendations to my office on how we could convert our underutilized City jail into a center of equity, healing and hope. Over the next few months, I will accept and finalize plans to move us from simply imagining an Atlanta that truly affords opportunities to all who seek better lives to operationalizing that vision.

Atlanta can be a Beloved Community, and we can achieve our vision for One Atlanta. Realizing that dream has been my priority since Day One, and will continue to be my North Star until we can finally close the book on our local tale of two cities.

I am grateful for the dedication of my team, the Reimagining ACDC Task Force, and all of our involved community partners. We have come a long way in a short period of time. The time to continue our progress is now.



Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms
60th Mayor of Atlanta



Reflections from the Task Force Co-Chairs



“It is in everyone’s interest to allow **EVERYONE** to have economic opportunity. When a person has a job - and hope for a career with increasing pay - that person has the money to pay their rent, their child support. It is not because of some character flaw that people commit crimes - it is because we have boxed them in and they have no other choice. We need to provide a better way.”

~ **Bill McGahan**
Founder & Chairman, Georgia Works!



“I was honored to serve with Marilyn and Bill to lead the work to reimagine our detention center. I am thankful for the Mayor’s leadership and vision to close our city jail and transform it into a center for health and wellness. I am proud of both the process and the product of our work and look forward to the next steps and new direction.”

~ **Rashad Taylor**
Senior Advisor to the Mayor, City of Atlanta

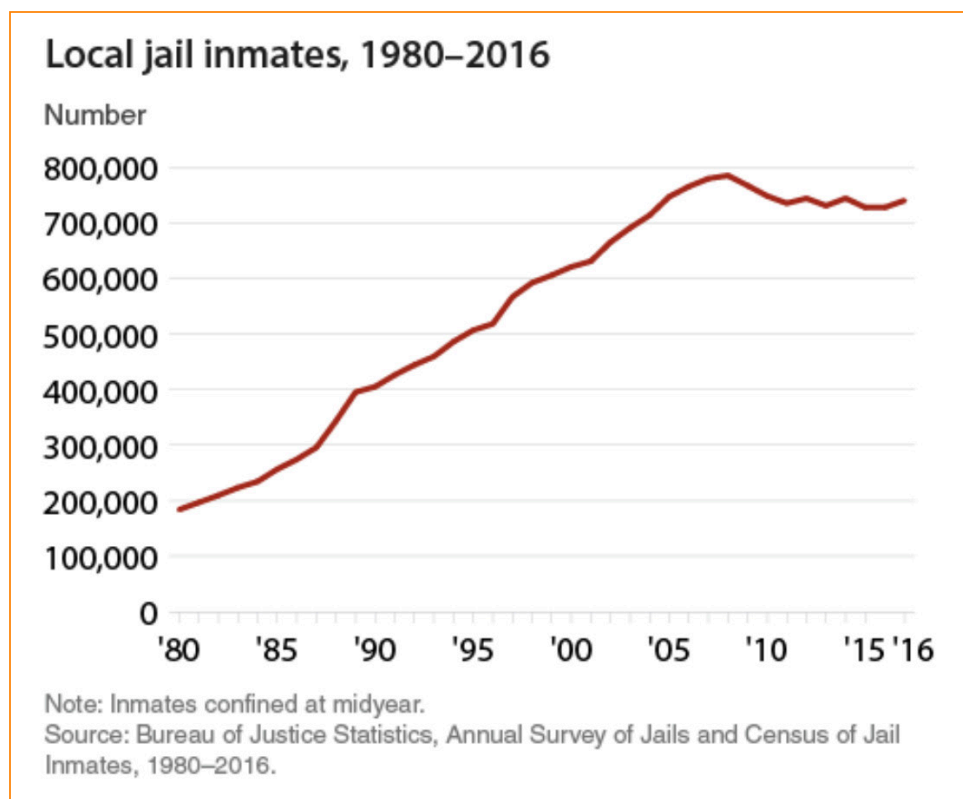


“On May 20, 2019 when you signed the legislation, I was overcome with emotions. My face became drowned in tears. I thank you, Mayor Bottoms, for your willingness to be a change agent for the City of Atlanta and the United States, and also one who listened. The nation is watching. I am excited that the Center for Equity will forever change Atlanta and how we relate to our marginalized folks.”

~ **Marilynn B. Winn**
Co-Founder & Executive Director, Women on the Rise GA

The Big Picture: Local Jails in Communities Nationwide

According to the United States Department of Justice's annual survey of jails and census of jail inmates, the incarceration rate in county and city jails has risen greatly since 1980.¹



However, from 2008 to 2016, the incarceration rate in county and city jails across the United States dropped. Due to the declining incarceration rate in county and city jails, such as the Atlanta City Detention Center, the need for these facilities is also declining.

¹Bureau of Justice Statistics, Key Statistics, “Local jail inmates, 1980–2016,” <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=kfdetail&iid=489>

Making the Case: Inequities in Mass Incarceration

This graphic, created by the VERA Institute of Justice, displays the misuse of jails across the United States. According to the VERA Institute, nearly 75 percent of people nationally are being held (in jail) for nonviolent traffic, property, drug, or public order offenses.

INCARCERATION'S FRONT DOOR: THE MISUSE OF JAILS IN AMERICA

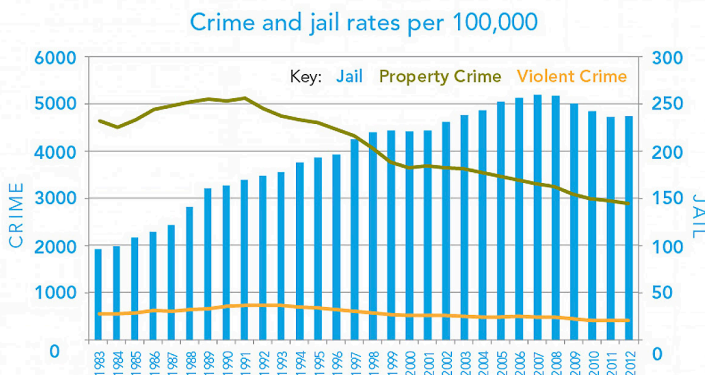
Jails have a much broader reach than prisons. Although state and federal prisons incarcerate, on any given day, about twice the number of people than jails, each year jails have close to 20 times more admissions than prisons.



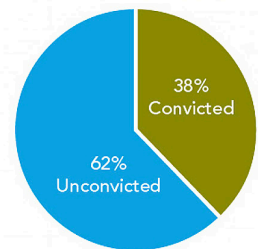
Local jails: 11,700,000



State & federal prisons: 631,000



While the country has grown safer since the early 1990s, an ever-larger proportion of the population is being sent to jail.

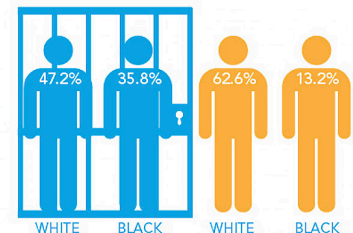


Three out of five people in jail are legally presumed innocent, awaiting trial or resolution of their cases through plea negotiation, and simply too poor to post even low bail.

Nearly 75 percent of people in jail are being held for nonviolent traffic, property, drug, or public order offenses.



Serious mental illness affects men and women in jail at rates four to six times higher than in the general population.



African Americans are jailed at almost four times the rate of white Americans.

VERA
INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE
www.vera.org

CENTER ON SENTENCING AND CORRECTIONS

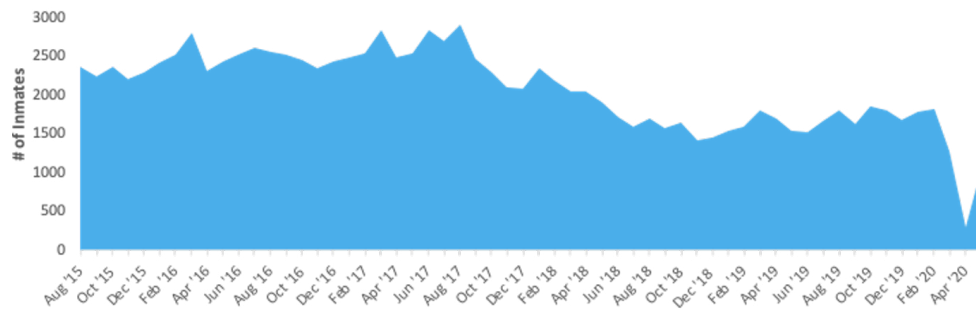
Ram Subramanian et al. *Incarceration's Front Door: The Misuse of Jails in America*. New York, NY: Vera Institute of Justice, 2015.

Source: VERA Institute of Justice

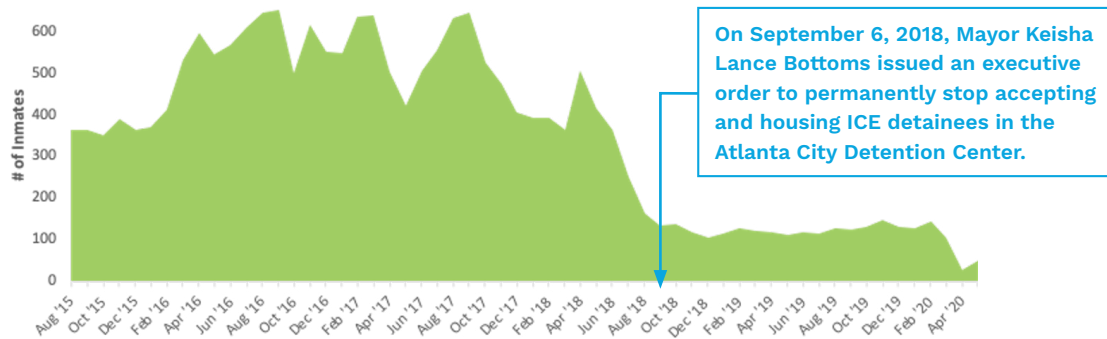
Atlanta: Local Trends in Incarceration at the Atlanta City Detention Center

The data in the following graphs was collected and provided by the City of Atlanta's Department of Corrections, and ranges from August 2015 to May 2020. The decline in average daily population, decline in number of inmates booked year-to-date (YTD), and the consistent percentage of inmates that are recidivists demonstrates the decreasing need for the Atlanta City Detention Center as an arrest and processing center, matched with an increased need for alternative programs to support justice-involved individuals in the city of Atlanta.

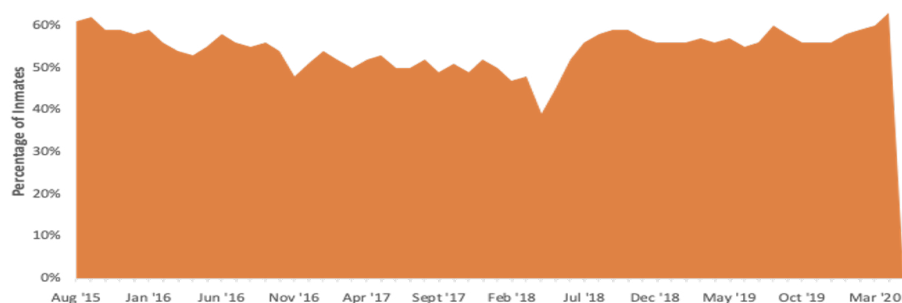
NUMBER OF INMATES BOOKED YTD, ATLANTA CITY DETENTION CENTER (AUGUST 2015 - MAY 2020)



AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION, ATLANTA CITY DETENTION CENTER (AUGUST 2015 - MAY 2020)



% OF UNIQUE INMATES THAT ARE RECIDIVISTS, ATLANTA CITY DETENTION CENTER (AUGUST 2015 - MAY 2020)



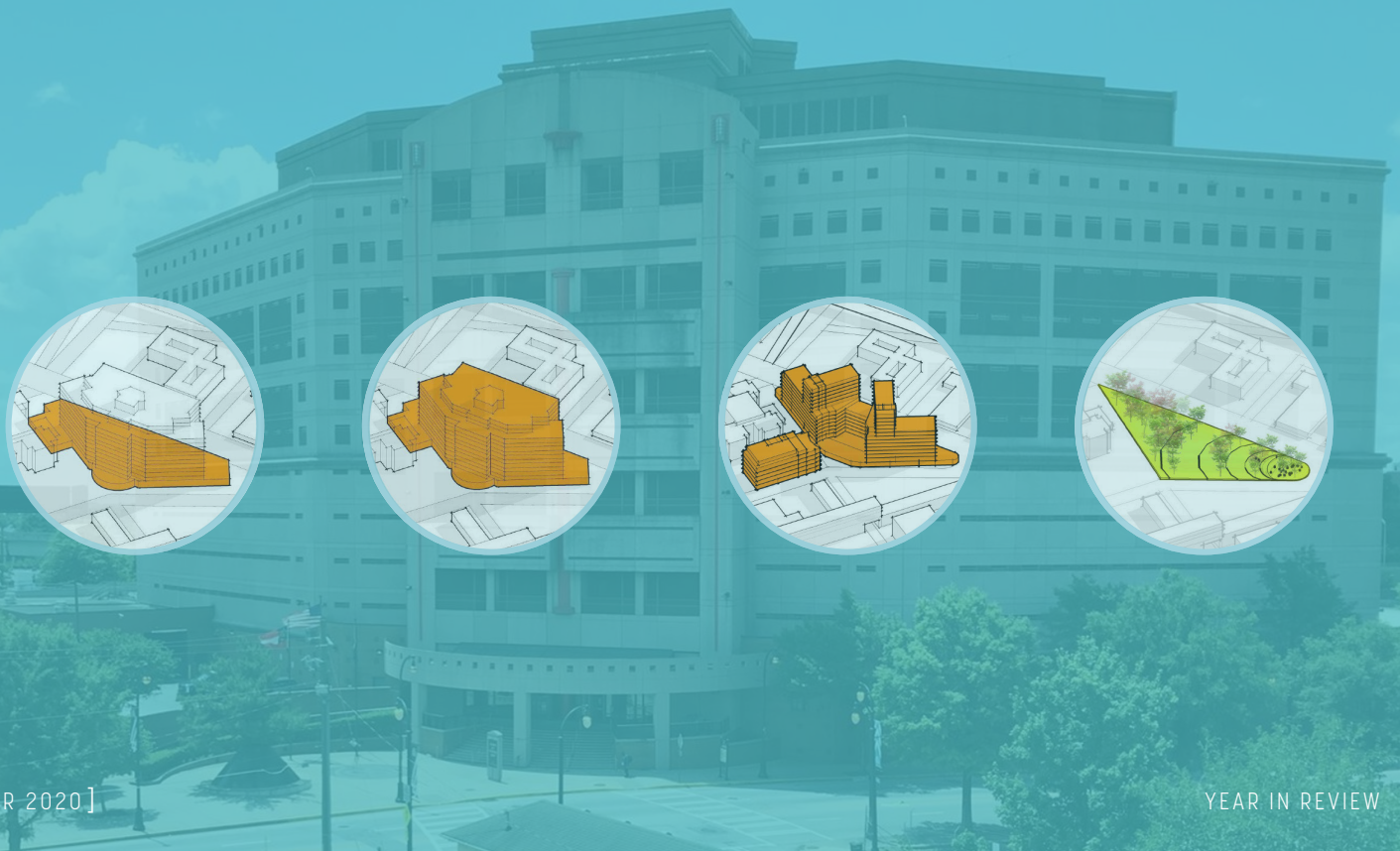
Background of the Initiative

The ACDC, located in the heart of Atlanta at Peachtree Street NW and Memorial Drive SW, is an 11-story, 471,000 square foot active detention and arrest-processing center, constructed in 1996 with capacity to detain approximately 1,300 people.

However, the average daily population of detainees was less than 50 as of May 2020 because of Mayor Bottoms' and community-led successful efforts to:

- 1. Decriminalize several low-level offenses**
- 2. Launch and expand a pre-arrest diversion initiative**
- 3. Reform municipal cash bail**
- 4. End a long-term contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement**

Mayor Bottoms' bold vision was to transform this underutilized facility into a Center for Equity: a multifaceted center for wellness and healing, skills-building, economic mobility and crime prevention, for people, families and communities impacted by the history of over-incarceration.



Drawings by Designing Justice + Designing Spaces

By converting this space, the City of Atlanta seeks to invest in people to break the cycle of poverty while at the same time improving public safety practices and opportunities that reduce recidivism and re-build lives.



Structure of the Reimagining ACDC Initiative

Goals of the Initiative

Eliminate the need for the ACDC facility as an arrest-processing and detention center;

Establish a dynamic and vibrant Center for Equity, ideally through the transformation of the ACDC, that will **advance racial and economic equity, promote restorative justice,** and invest in the well-being of individuals, families, and communities;

Engage individuals, families and communities impacted by incarceration and ensure **openness and transparency** in the planning process;

Create a Center for Equity that is long term **financially sustainable**;

Ensure and improve **safety and wellness** across all of Atlanta's neighborhoods.



Drawing by Designing Justice + Designing Spaces

Roles & Responsibilities

Mayor

Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms sets the vision and goals of the initiative, provides direction, and makes decisions related to the future of the ACDC and the Center for Equity.

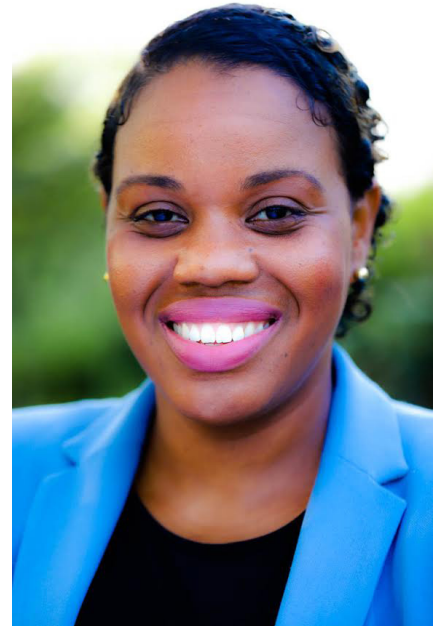


Initiative Sponsor

Rashad Taylor provides oversight and strategic advice on each phase of the initiative and works closely with our coalition and partners to advance policy solutions.

Strategic Lead

Sheryl Ude manages oversight and progress of a collaboration of leaders, partnerships, project work, budgets, and decisions ensuring alignment with the vision and timeline set forth. She executes strategic coordination of consensus building and driving results while maintaining accountability to a diverse set of perspectives, expectations, and levels of consciousness of all stakeholders impacted by the initiative.



Reimagining ACDC Program Manager

Maria Russo manages various workstreams of the initiative, ensuring effective communication with internal and external stakeholders and developing documents and presentations. Most importantly, this role maintains an overall bird's eye view of the initiative, ensuring successful and timely completion of the necessary duties and envisioned goals.



Reimagining ACDC Planning Team

To support the effort, a passionate, diverse, and knowledgeable team of experts collaborated around a common mission – to drive the work to deliver three bold proposals (later developed into four) and engage the community in the City's most transparent, grassroots-led initiative. This group formed the Planning Team of 24 members who met weekly since the signing of the Reimagining ACDC legislation through the sunset of the Task Force.



The Planning Team

City of Atlanta

Rashad Taylor,^{†*} Senior Advisor to the Mayor

Jon Keen,^{*} Deputy Chief Operating Officer

Sheryl Ude, Senior Project Manager to COO/Reimagining ACDC Strategic Lead

Maria Russo, Reimagining ACDC Program Manager

Bill Hawthorne,^{*} former Chief Equity Officer

Reese McCranie,^{*} Deputy Chief Equity Officer

Megan Sparks, Senior Director, Programs & Strategic Partnerships

Amber Robinson,^{*} Senior Assistant City Attorney



Community Partners

Marilynn Winn,[‡] Co-Founder & Executive Director, Women on the Rise GA

Bill McGahan,[‡] Founder & Chairman, Georgia Works!

Xochitl Bervera, Director, Racial Justice Action Center

Che Johnson-Long, Community Engagement Specialist,
Racial Justice Action Center

Moki Macias, Director, Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiative

Deanna Van Buren, Co-Founder, Designing Justice Designing + Spaces

Kyle Rawlins, Co-Founder, Designing Justice + Designing Spaces

Shelley Davis Roberts, Architectural Associate,
Designing Justice + Designing Spaces

Tonyel Stewart, Project Manager, Designing Justice + Designing Spaces

Brandi Mack, Community Liaison, Designing Justice + Designing Spaces



Bloomberg Associates

Linda Gibbs, Principal

Tamiru Mammo, Associate

Robin Ried, Associate

Mariama N'Diaye, Associate

Clara Raugei, Project Manager

Niiobli Armah IV, Associate

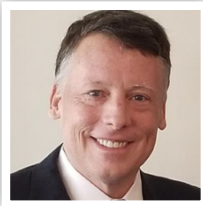


[†]Co Chairs of the Reimagining ACDC Task Force ^{*}Workgroup Leads

Reimagining ACDC Task Force Committee

Reviewed deliverables of staff and consultants; determined final program and policy recommendations to be made to the Mayor; and delivered final conceptual design and financial feasibility scenarios.

Co-Chairs



Bill McGahan,
Task Force Co-chair,
Georgia Works!



Rashad Taylor,
Task Force Co-chair,
City of Atlanta

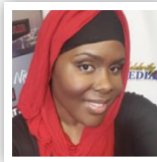


Marilynn Winn,
Task Force Co-chair,
Women on the Rise GA

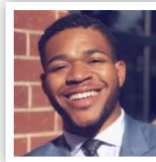
Members



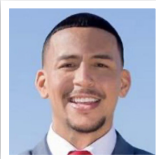
Yussif Abubakar
Georgia Detention Watch



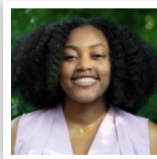
Attiyah Ali
A Loving Act



Devin Barrington-Ward
Black Futurists Group



Antonio Brown
Councilman, City of Atlanta



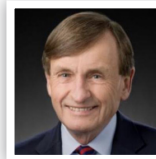
Jill Cartwright
Southerners On New Ground



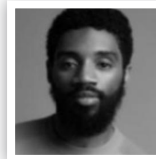
Eugene Cooke
Grow Where You Are



Shan Cooper
Atlanta Committee for Progress



Jim Curran
Emory University



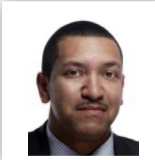
Scrapp DeLeon
Rapper & Actor



Derek Duncan
Trinity Community Ministries



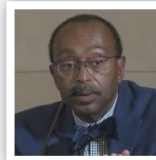
Burrell Ellis
DeKalb County Board of
Commissioners



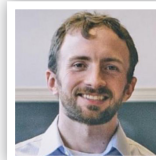
Attorney Benjamin Graham
Motivation Forward Inc.



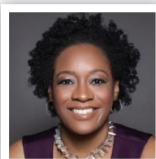
Shafeka Hashash
Georgia Coalition Against Domestic
Violence



Alvin Kendall
Attorney



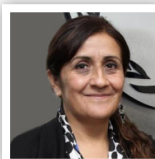
Kyle Kessler
Center for Civic Innovation



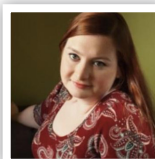
Amber Lawson
Aspire Construction and Real
Estate Consulting



Steven Muhammad
Minister



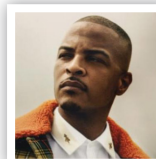
Adelina Nicholls
GA Latino Alliance for
Human Rights



Alexis Rhodes
Millennials for Progress



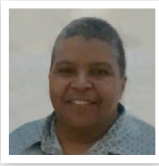
Tiffany Roberts
Southern Center for Human Rights & the
Progressive Atlanta Working Group Criminal
Justice Task Force



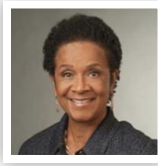
T.I.
Rapper & Actor



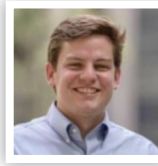
Rodney Turner
Mount Vernon Baptist Church



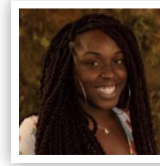
Sharon Turner
Save Kids of Incarcerated Parents



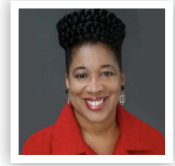
Gail Tusan
Fulton County Superior Court



Matt Westmoreland
Councilman, City of Atlanta

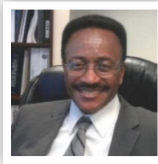


Toni-Michelle Williams
Solutions Not Punishment
Collaborative



Elizabeth Wilson
Georgia Micro Enterprise Network

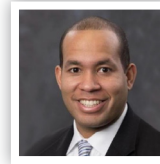
Ex Officio Members



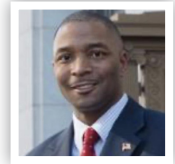
Raines Carter
City of Atlanta



Solicitor Ken Days
City of Atlanta,
Chief Public Defender



Jason Esteves
Atlanta Public Schools,
Board of Education Chair



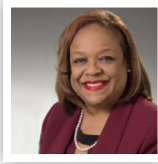
Keith Gammage
Fulton County, Solicitor



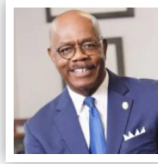
General Natalie Hall
Fulton County, Commissioner



Bill Hawthorne
City of Atlanta, Former Chief
Equity Officer



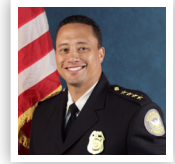
Nina Hickson
City of Atlanta, City Attorney



Paul Howard, Jr.
Fulton County, District Attorney



Tim Keane
City of Atlanta, Commissioner
of City Planning



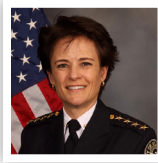
Patrick Labat
City of Atlanta,
Former Chief of Corrections



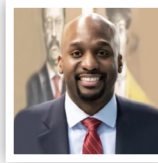
Vernon Pitts
Fulton County, Public Defender



Christopher Portis
Municipal Court of Atlanta,
Chief Judge

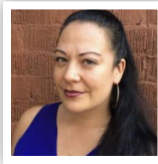


Erika Shields
City of Atlanta,
Former Chief of Police

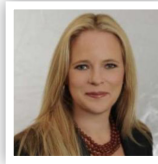


Joshua Williams
City of Atlanta, Chief Operating Officer

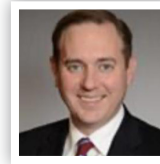
Advisory Members



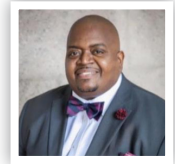
Xochitl Bervera
Racial Justice Action Center



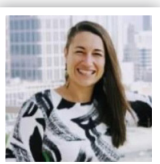
Lindsay Caulfield
Grady Health System



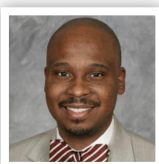
David Dreyer
Georgia State Representative



Raphael Holloway
Gateway Center



Moki Macias
Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiative



Bryant Marks
Morehouse College



Aaron Nicholson
Atlanta Police Foundation



Ashlee Starr
Partners for Home



Vassane Tinsley
DeKalb County School District

City of Atlanta Work Group Leads

Defined the groups' scope and work plans, organized work group meetings, executed core tasks, leading discussions, and compiling all recommendations produced by their respective group, sharing them with the full Task Force at key moments.

Workgroups

Policy - Reviewed city ordinances and state statutes carrying criminal penalties, with the objective of amendment or deletion, to depopulate and divert individuals from ACDC, consistent with public safety.

Program - Explored services and activities that could be housed in the building that would best advance well-being consistent with the vision for the Center for Equity.

Building - Analyzed the building capacity for adaptive reuse as a Center for Equity and envisioned design scenarios that could achieve that vision.

Community Engagement

A collective effort to collect qualitative data from a broad base of Atlanta residents. These stories were analyzed and used to develop three design proposals (later developed into four) for the repurposing of the Atlanta City Detention Center into a Center for Equity.

Community Engagement Specialist

Facilitated the community engagement efforts, speaking to over 600 Atlanta residents about how they envisioned repurposing the Atlanta City Detention Center.

“*Once in awhile if we're lucky in our careers we get to embrace a bold idea that is a game-changer not just in its outcome but in its process, too. From diving deep with Program Workgroup members into all the innovative programs already happening in Atlanta to hearing the personal stories of Task Force members to designing how the building could look with residents, Reimagining ACDC already is creating a more equitable Atlanta by centering every action in the voices of those residents most traumatized by historically discriminatory systems. Thank you, Mayor Bottoms, for showing us all that the journey matters just as much as the destination – and that by choosing to act more equitably today, each of us has the power to build a more equitable and resilient Atlanta.*”

~ **Megan Sparks**, Senior Director, Programs and Strategic Partnerships, City of Atlanta

2018

The Reimagining ACDC Initiative Timeline

We welcome you to browse the underlined embedded links in this timeline to view a collection of resources, tools, and documents we have developed through this initiative to serve as a guide in our efforts of revisioning public safety and community engagement.

FEBRUARY

- [Eliminated cash bond](#)



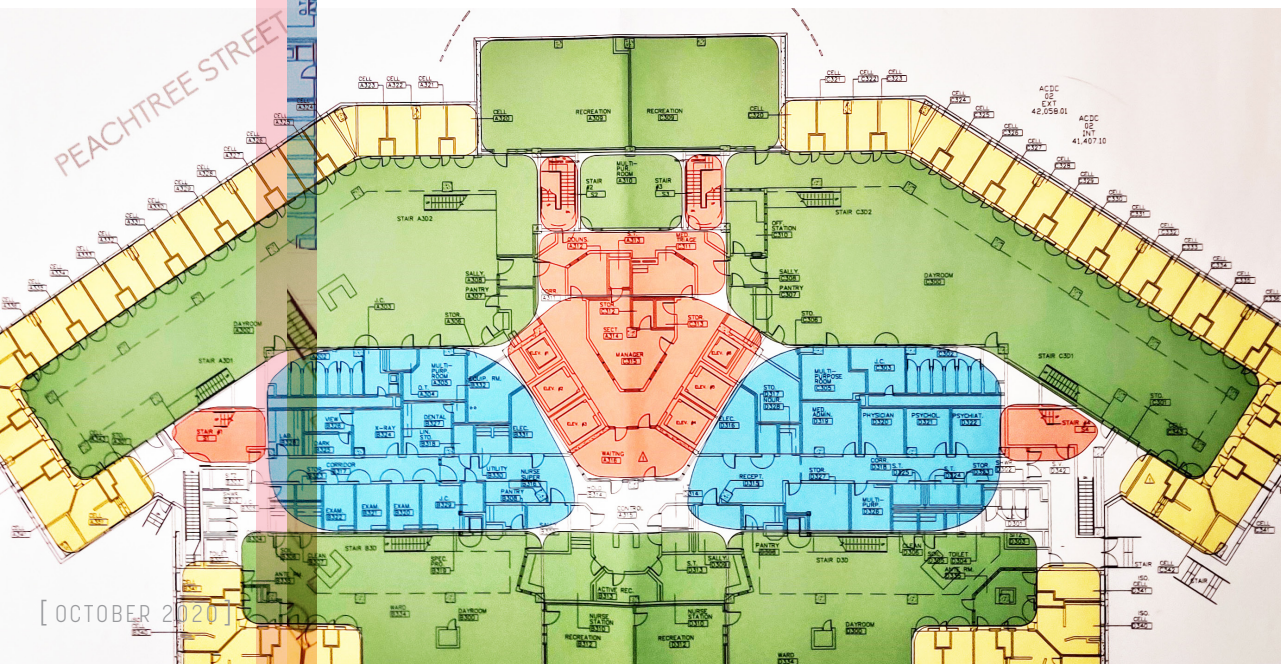
SEPTEMBER

- [Severed City contract with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement \(I.C.E.\)](#)



DECEMBER

- [Internally explored Reimagining ACDC initiative feasibility](#)

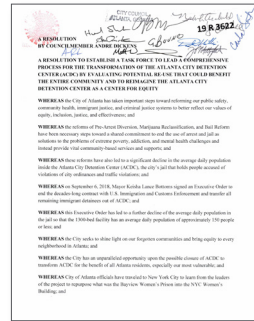


[OCTOBER 2020]

2019

MAY

- **Mayor signed legislation,** launching Reimagining the ACDC Task Force
- [Video of legislation signing](#)



Initiated Reimagining ACDC Phase I

Preliminary Feasibility Analysis and Conceptual Design: initial visioning, planning, and brainstorming

[OCTOBER 2020]

2019

JUNE

Task Force recruited & structure formalized

Task Force application process opened to the public

- Task Force Selection Criteria and responsibilities confirmed

Task Force recruited

- Framework & Parameters Document released to the public

Presented to Mayor's Cabinet on initiative progress

Planning Team established



“

Today, while the value of diversity is almost unquestioned, too often we find that many of the most important policy decisions made by our leaders are not informed by true diversity. Too often, policy makers base their decisions on homogenous viewpoints which reflect a certain similarity of the life experiences of our leaders regardless of their differing racial or gender identities.

However, true diversity is not simply a matter of race, gender, or socioeconomic background. True diversity also comes from our differing individual life experiences. Mayor Bottoms ensured that the Reimagining ACDC Taskforce included a truly diverse group of leaders. Persons whose diversity in life experiences matched their diversity in age, race, gender identity, and background. It was this diversity that was truly the strength of the Taskforce.”

~ **Amber Robinson**, Senior Assistant City Attorney, City of Atlanta

2019

JUNE



Task Force Responsibilities

- ☐ Actively participate throughout the duration of Phase I of the project, from the Kick-off meeting through the Final meeting;
- ☐ Attend all Task Force meetings, which will be held every 6-8 weeks, and should not exceed 4 or 5 meetings in total;
- ☐ Join a Working Group;
- ☐ May designate one person to attend meetings in their place in the event of their unavailability;
- ☐ Must be present for both the Kick-off and Final Task Force meetings;
- ☐ Are encouraged to participate in community engagement sessions related to the project, and may be asked to help coordinate, lead, or take an active role in certain instances;
- ☐ Support communication to the public and press about the work of the Task Force and its recommendations, directing any request for official comment to Mayor's Office and Co-Chairs.

2019

JULY

Task Force Meeting 1

July 16, 2019

Atlanta City Hall Tower

68 Mitchell Street SW / Old Council Chambers / 3rd floor

1. **Task Force welcome** & charge to the community announced
2. **Background Briefing:** Arrest and population trends at ACDC, Building information and site context
3. **Small group facilitated discussions**
 - **Agenda**



2019

JULY

- **In-person Planning Team Meeting**



AUGUST

- **Launched first workgroup meetings and defined workgroup purposes**

- **Policy Workgroup Scope of Work** - Reviewed city ordinances and state statutes carrying criminal penalties, with the objective of amendment or deletion, to depopulate and divert individuals from ACDC, consistent with public safety
- **Program Workgroup Scope of Work** - Explored services and activities that could be housed in the building that would best advance well-being consistent with the vision for the Center for Equity
- **Building Workgroup Scope of Work** - Analyzed the building capacity for adaptive reuse as a Center for Equity and envisioned design scenarios that could achieve that vision.



2019

SEPTEMBER

Task Force Meeting 2

September 10th, 2019

The Gathering Spot

The Northyards 384 / Northyards Blvd NW / Atlanta, GA 30313

Meeting Objectives:

- **Updated Task Force** on progress and unveiled interactive “Seat at the Table” and “menu cards” engagement activities
- **Slides** and **Agenda**



“

One of the most profound moments were the opportunities that included and allowed the Task Force to listen to people from the community. I believe in doing with versus doing to people when creating service models or plans. A key to the process was creating these moments to be inclusive of community and hear their experiences, pain, trauma and concerns regarding what the current facility has created for them and symbolizes. We have been gifted an opportunity to utilize these feelings and experiences. I hope we let them guide our decision making and transform the ACDC into something beautiful that can positively impact others going forward.”

~ **Raphael Holloway**, Chief Executive Officer, Gateway Center

2019

SEPTEMBER

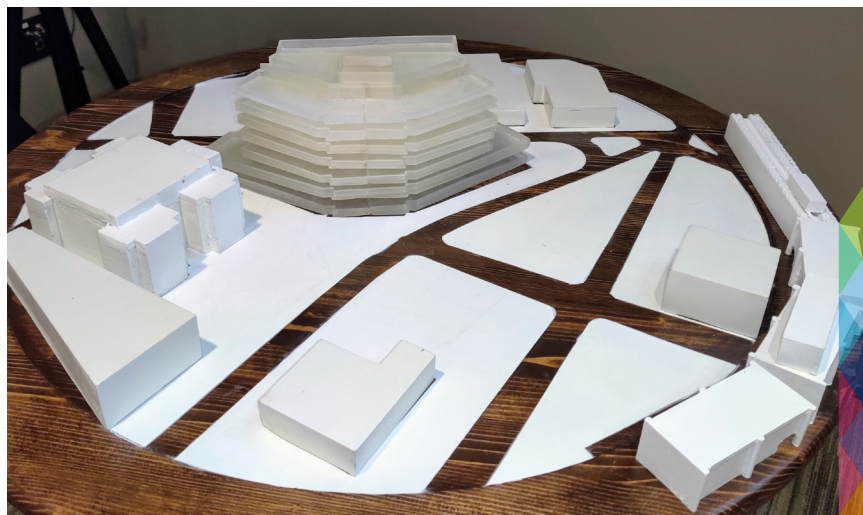
- **City Ordinance Subcommittee Meetings**

Program Workgroup Meeting

Service provider interviews held in the following categories:

- Housing & Homelessness
- Justice Reform
- Employment & Financial Empowerment
- Physical Health, Mental Health, and Behavioral health

In-person Planning Team Meeting



2019

OCTOBER

• Planning Team Retreat & Strategy Session

- Retreat to ground ourselves on our collective “why”, develop more productive working relationships, and improve levels of communication and support.

Goal: The Planning Team was the foundation for continued, successful progress and realignment of vision and purpose grounding. At this pivotal moment, it was essential to continue to build consensus and alignment as a collaborative planning team. We planned a team building retreat to develop more productive working relationships, and improve levels of communication and support.

LEAD FACILITATOR	ACTIVITY
Project Sponsor	Welcome + Agenda Review
Reimagining ACDC Program Manager	Ice Breaker: The Collective “Why”: Provide opportunity for team members to address “why” they are committed to the Reimagining ACDC movement.
Strategic Lead	Themes Review: Review of Planning Team members’ preferred retreat agenda topics and exactions.
Strategic Lead	Inte“GREAT” Work Plan Review: Review purpose and structure of Task Force and workgroups; Integrate Planning Team roles and methods of collaboration into comprehensive workplan.
Program Manager	Community Engagement: Discuss community engagement needs across Planning Team agencies.
Project Sponsor	Communications: Discuss vision for Communications and initiate operationalizing a workplan.
All	Working Lunch
Designing Justice + Designing Spaces	Design and Precedent Development Work Plan and Milestone Review: Presentation of workplan and major milestones, precedents for revenue generating and socially impactful uses for the building, financial implications of programming/uses, & review and play The Space Planning and Budget Game -Community Engagement Tools.
All	Adjourn

2019

OCTOBER

Task Force Meeting 3

October 29, 2019

Atlanta Fanplex

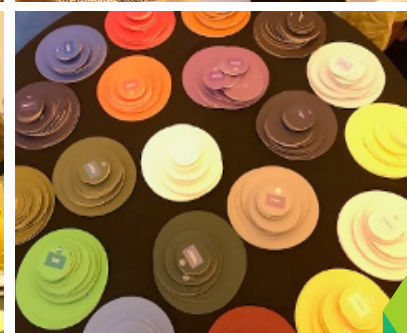
768 Hank Aaron Dr SE / Atlanta, GA 30315

Meeting Objectives:

1. **To engage** Task Force members and general public on Community Engagement exercises;
2. **To update** Task Force members and general public on the efforts of the Task Force workgroups;
3. **To receive feedback** from Task Force members and general public on progress of Task Force thus far

○ **Slides** and **Agenda**

○ **Video of Task Force Meeting 3**



City Ordinance and State Statute Subcommittee Meetings

Service provider interviews continued

In-person Planning Team Meeting

Full Building Workgroup Meeting

2019

NOVEMBER

- Conducted extensive community engagement across the city of Atlanta

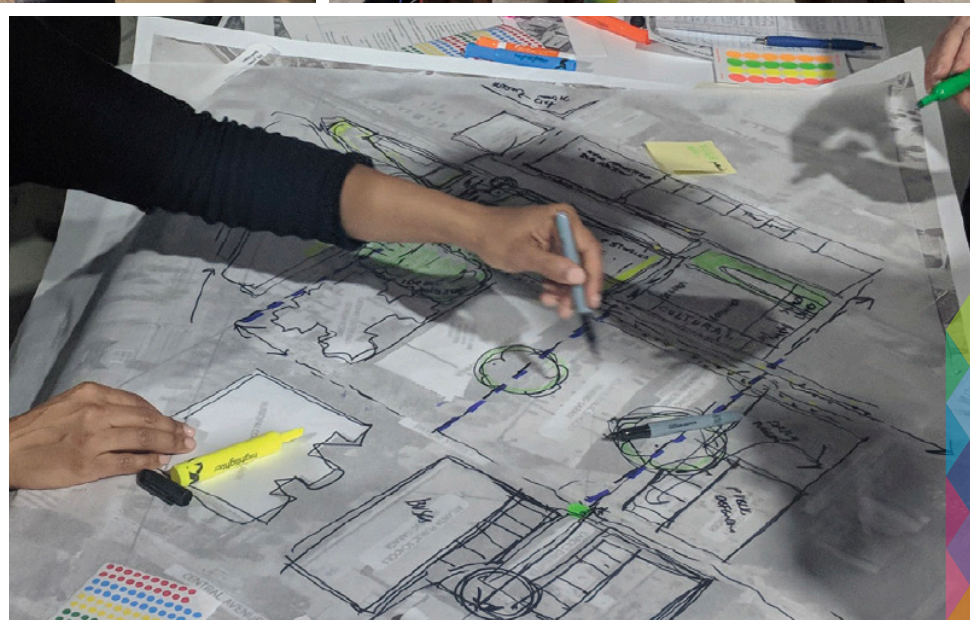
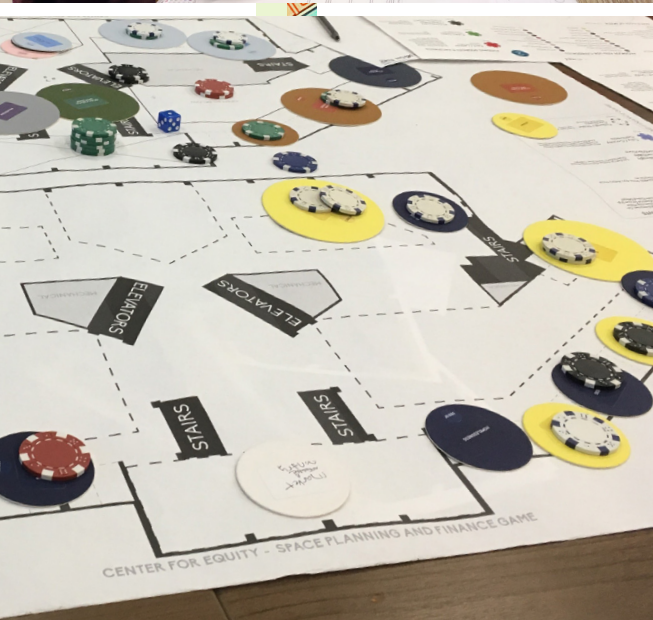


- Formerly Incarcerated Peoples' Townhall
- LGBTQ Townhall
- Youth Townhall
- Gateway Center Townhall
- General Public Townhall
- Community organization meetings
- Held first Department of Corrections Townhall

2019

NOVEMBER

- Full Policy Workgroup Meeting
- State Statute Subcommittee Meetings
- Program Workgroup Meeting
- Program & Building combined Workgroup Meeting
- Service provider interviews continued



2019

DECEMBER

Task Force Meeting 4

December 10, 2019

Grace United Methodist

Fellowship Hall, 1st Floor / 458 Ponce De Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30308

Meeting Objectives:

1. **Summarized results** of the coding and analysis of community engagement surveys, presented initial 9 Pathways to Equity, and explored initial building design features.
 2. **Named two Department of Corrections liaisons**
- **Slides** and **Agenda**



Master Planning & Site Design Workshop

Atlanta City Studio, 99 Broad Street, Atlanta GA 30303



2020

JANUARY

Internally explored management & development options for implementation

Tours: Atlanta City Detention Center

The Mayor's Office invited a wide range of businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and social service providers to take a one-hour guided tour of the Atlanta City Detention Center (ACDC), led by the Atlanta Department of Corrections. Attendees were then invited to participate in a follow-up survey to help the City in its effort to conceptualize, redesign, and convert the current facility into a Center for Equity.

Cabinet Breakfast & Briefing

Briefed Mayor and Cabinet on initiative & engaged in space planning game

○ [Video of Cabinet Breakfast & Briefing](#)



“
Standing inside the ACDC for the first time brought to life for me the magnitude of the work we were tasked to do. It became apparent to me that this initiative was about more than reimagining the use of a building. It was also about changing what the building represented. Isolation. Separation. In some cases, failure. This work was about creating a space that would bring us all together to provide a place of hope and opportunity. It was about creating community!”

~ **Shan Cooper**, Executive Director, Atlanta Committee for Progress

2020

FEBRUARY

Task Force Meeting 5

February 25, 2020

Atlanta Technical College

Dennard Center / 1560 Metropolitan Pkwy SW / Atlanta, GA 30310

Meeting Objectives:

1. **Presented policy and legislative recommendations** on the city and state level
 2. **Generated a set of program recommendations** for the best use of the repurposed ACDC facility
 3. **Presented building designs** with programmatic elements embedded
- Slides, Agenda, and Handout
 - Video of Task Force Meeting 5

Held meeting with Department of Corrections leadership to share updates and address questions about initiative

Full Policy Workgroup Meeting

Full Building Workgroup Meeting

In-person Planning Team Meeting

Emory University Goizueta Business School:
Real Estate Market Analysis

Presentation to the Planning Team

Community Engagement Report

Finalized

Center for Equity Building Progress Report

Finalized

2020

MARCH

- **Announced an Executive Order to postpone Commissions and similar bodies to slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic**

Continued efforts on finalizing the final feasibility analysis and task force report

Policy Workgroup Recommendations Report

Finalized

Program Workgroup Recommendations Report

Finalized

While the sixth and final Task Force meeting was canceled due to Mayor Bottoms' Executive Order to postpone meetings of City Boards, Commissions and similar bodies to slow the spread of COVID-19, the Planning Team pushed forward and spent the next three months finalizing the final feasibility analysis and task force reports. While this shift presented challenges to this work, we saw this as an opportunity. The City's response served as a model for how we prioritize our community's health, safety, and wellness, which has proven more important than ever. Amid global health concerns, Reimagining ACDC represents a reality for more timely and localized models that advocate for and serve impacted communities.

2020

APRIL

Task Force Meeting 6

Postponed until further notice

Please see Executive Order above (March 2020)

Co-chairs begin to develop final task force report

MAY

Task Force Recommendations

Finalized

Center for Equity Final Feasibility Report

Finalized



Georgia State University School of Criminology and Criminal Justice: Decriminalization and Decarceration Initiatives in the United States

Presentation to the Planning Team

2020

JUNE

- **Task Force Report**

Released to public

- [Press release](#)

Presented to City Council

Public Safety Committee

**Mayoral budget
announcement**
Regarding reprogramming
public safety
**Reimagining the Atlanta
City Detention Center (ACDC)**

Task Force Report June 2020

The Task Force Report is the comprehensive outcome of local community members, stakeholders, and experts who passionately committed their time, expertise, and thought leadership to direct the visioning and planning processes and to advise how to best transform the ACDC facility into a Center for Equity.

Prepared by Task Force Co-Chairs with support from the Reimagining ACDC Planning Team on behalf of efforts completed by the full Reimagining ACDC Task Force.

JULY

- **Department of Corrections**

All-Hands Meeting regarding Reimagining ACDC impact & process to
redeploy DOC staff to community-based efforts

“It was inspiring that after one of the first few weeks of modeling a new ACDC a local shelter approached me about potentially having a teen dating violence prevention program hosted in the new site. While we were and still are far from fleshing out these details, it showed all the ideas that people already have for what Atlanta is missing to make a more just future for all.”

~ **Shafeka Hashash**, Housing and Economic Justice Coordinator,
Georgia Coalition for Domestic Violence

What is on the horizon?

As we conclude Phase I (*Preliminary Feasibility Assessment*) of this initiative, we are very proud of the progress that has been made to date, and recognize that there is still much work to be done.

Phase II (*Detailed Feasibility Analysis & Planning*) will require additional expertise and involvement, in order to explore feasibility of the recommendations made by the Reimagining ACDC Task Force.

Mayor Bottoms remains committed to transforming public safety for the good of all Atlantans as evidenced by her following commitments:

- 1. Reprogramming resources from the City jail to expand community-based services**
- 2. Expanding the Pre-Arrest Diversion Program citywide to reduce incarceration and increase equity and opportunities**
- 3. Increasing funding for Citizens Review Board**
- 4. Immediately standing up a Police Use of Force Advisory Council following Obama's Call to Action**
- 5. Engaging external justice reform expertise to analyze impact and develop a pathway to jail closure**



[OCTOBER 2020]



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Appendix:

Workgroup Approaches to Recommendations

Building Workgroup Recommendations



Market Analysis

The Emory Impact Team was tasked with evaluating a list of possible commercial uses that would complement the proposed Center for Equity.



Master Design & Site Planning Workshop

A master planning workshop was held, with the support of Atlanta City Studios, to explore design ideas as they relate to the public realm around the ACDC building.



Cost Estimator

Development costs were estimated by adding the acquisition costs, hard costs, soft costs, and contingencies.



Jail Tours

The City of Atlanta invited a wide range of businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and social service providers to take a guided 1-hour tour of the Atlanta City Detention Center and participate in a follow-up survey to help the City in its effort to conceptualize, redesign and convert the current facility into a Center for Equity.



Building Conditions Assessment

An evaluation of the quality of a facility's structure including heating and cooling systems, electrical systems, mechanical systems, and more.

Policy Workgroup Recommendations



Calculated recommendations' impact on arrests and detentions



Analyzed opportunities for decriminalization

Made distinct recommendations to delete, maintain, or convert to civil offenses all City Ordinances and State Statutes.



Review of State Statutes

Evaluated statutes that carry criminal penalties resulting in ACDC processing or detention.



Review of City Ordinances

Evaluated ordinances that carry criminal penalties resulting in ACDC processing or detention.



Formed City and State subgroups



Program Workgroup Recommendations



Conducted a scan of best practice programs and services currently offered to target populations



Explored Compatible Uses

Surveyed opportunities (non-profits, city agencies, private sector, revenue-generating businesses, etc.) that align with the goals of the Center for Equity.



Held 50+ Stakeholder Interviews

Identified gaps and opportunities in Atlanta-area programs and service offerings.



Summarized needs assessments, research, data, and best practice programs



Identified core focus areas



Acknowledgments:

Reimagining ACDC is a multi-phase, multi-year initiative that allows us to reimagine public safety, so as to support more Atlantans for generations to come.

We thank each and every individual and organization who has contributed their time, energy, and expertise to this initiative. We look forward to continuing and increasing engagement, as we transform this vision into a reality.

Contact Us:

We invite you to stay up to date on progress and future opportunities for engagement by visiting our website at ReimaginingACDC.org or by reaching out to us at ReimagineACDC@AtlantaGA.Gov.

Thank you to the following teams for their support in in the development of this report: the Mayor's Office of Innovation & Performance (art direction/design) and the Mayor's Office of Communications (photography and videography).



City of Atlanta

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