

Sandtown Community Association

A New City Is Not An Option for SW

By John A. Davis, President, Sandtown Community Association

February is the one month where Americans focus intensely on the contributions of African Americans. The history of the city of Atlanta is rich in tradition, heritage and accomplishment. With such a fine fabric of distinction, service and progress, why do so many of us view the city in such a disparaging light? Why do so many run away from the past, want to start anew or reinvent the wheel? Where is the pride in wanting to associate with the history of the civil rights movement.

To some, it may seem simple, easy, almost impervious to build from ground zero. In the current political climate, there are so many forces pulling against each other, turning inward towards polarization and isolation in pushing a particular agenda. I was taught that consensus, optimization and synergy are far more productive modes of thought and decisionmaking. If we are constantly mimicking what others do, at what point do we learn from the past and recognize their is only one world, and

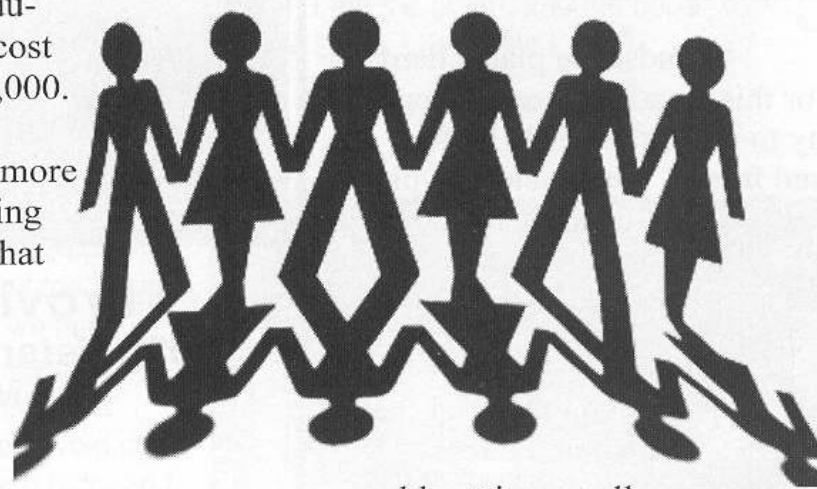
that we must learn to work together for the greater good. Think about it!

If you had a block with ten homes and the cost to build, install, and maintain a new street to benefit each home was \$200/month, the total annual cost for each homeowner would be \$2,400. With all ten homes paying individually, the total cost would be \$24,000. If the owners wanted to get more than maintaining the street for that amount of money, then a need would arise, in terms of identifying who could share this cost or assist in getting more for their dollars. Identifying other stakeholders, trying to reach mutual consensus or finding mutual benefit would help everyone involved.

Forming a new city is an option for those who would

most benefit. Southwest Fulton would gain more by partnering with a larger entity that could leverage economic development, global influence and talented leadership.

Communities all around the United States are fighting over resources to remain isolated and apart. With the



world getting smaller, my vote is to go with a team that is going to be a winner. How many of the other cities in Fulton County are the size, possess the influence or have the infrastructure as Atlanta? Not many, and for any of them to reach that size, it would take more than a lifetime.