



Join the City of Atlanta!

The residents of Sandtown and the rest of south Fulton County have some critical decisions to make. Referenda now scheduled will provide you with the option of staying in unincorporated Fulton County, creating a new city from scratch, or joining existing municipalities in the area. Mayor Shirley Franklin, on behalf of citizens of the City of Atlanta, wants you to know that if you are interested in joining the City of Atlanta, the City of Atlanta is interested in helping you to make that happen.

The City of Atlanta Has the Experience

The City of Atlanta is one of the fastest growing major cities in the country. Based on our estimates, we are adding 10,000 new residents each year. In response to this rapid growth, we have become extremely adept at expanding services and absorbing new residents. No other city in the state has the resources or the management experience needed to efficiently transition new large numbers of new residents into their city.

The City of Atlanta is Financially Strong

Our commitment to financial health and strong financial management practices has led to four straight years with budget surpluses, an 8% reserve fund, and the strongest ethics laws in the state. The City has over 130,000 businesses, a tax base of \$51 billion, and is adding over \$3 billion in new construction each year

The City of Atlanta is Investing

Healthy communities require aggressive public investments. Most people know of the City's \$3.9 billion investment in its water and sewer infrastructure, and its \$6 billion investment in Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. What people don't know is that we in the midst of a \$150 million investment in sidewalks and streets, a \$105 million investment in parks and recreation centers, and an \$80 million investment in public safety infrastructure, including a state-of-the-art 911 call center. In addition, over the last five years the City has invested over \$400 million in tax bonds to stimulate \$2.3 billion in new private investment in the City. And over the next five years the City will invest over \$400 million in the Beltline system of parks, trails and transit.

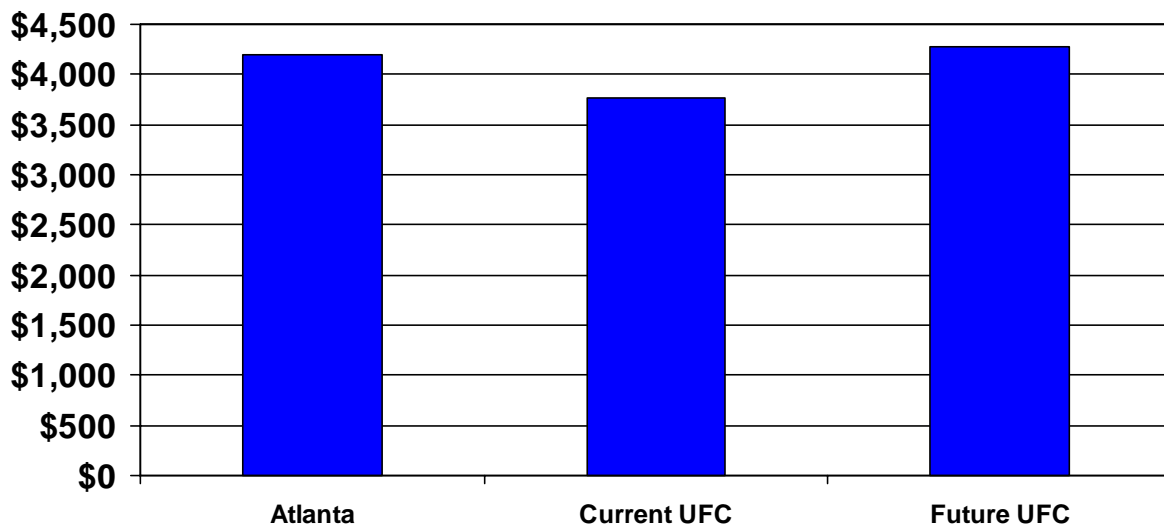
The City of Atlanta Can Deliver the Services

- The **Atlanta Police Department (APD)** has confirmed that it can deliver all of its public safety services to Sandtown. APD will serve Sandtown through its Zone 4 precinct, and it is possible that APD will open a mini-precinct in Sandtown itself (which Fulton County currently doesn't provide) to ensure a high level of visibility for its policing activities. At the very least, APD add 5-6 beats to cover Sandtown and will design beat patterns that provide emergency response times comparable to those we currently provide in Zone 4 (6:40 minutes). Atlanta Police Chief Richard Pennington set a goal of reducing crime in the City of Atlanta by 5% every year, and he has exceeded that goal each of the last four years (crime is down 38% between 2002 and 2005). He is committed to continuing that progress in the coming years.
 - The **Atlanta Department of Fire Rescue (AFR)** has confirmed that it can deliver fire services to Sandtown. Depending on the area ultimately annexed, AFR will provide services by acquiring existing Fulton County fire facilities or constructing a new firehouse. In the short term, the City will explore contracting with Fulton County to continue service or we will construct temporary facilities within Sandtown. We currently operate mutual aid agreements with Fulton County that cover much of the Sandtown area, and we would extend those agreements to accommodate any boundary changes.
 - The **Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (DPRCA)** has confirmed that it could take over the management of Sandtown Park. As part of the transition, DPRCA would assess opportunities to upgrade facilities in the park. The City is an aggressive acquirer of greenspace, and we will include land adjacent to Sandtown Park in any analysis of potential new acquisitions.
 - The **Department of Public Works (DPW)** has confirmed that it could immediately provide solid waste management and street and sidewalk maintenance services. Sanitation services include: weekly curbside solid waste collection; backyard collection services for certain disabled individuals; weekly curbside recycling collection; bi-weekly yard waste collection, bulk waste collection by request; street sweeping; dead animal removal; and illegal sign removal. Once in place, a more comprehensive survey of the streets and supporting infrastructure will need to be conducted in order to integrate Sandtown's streets into the City's infrastructure investment program. Additional analysis will also be required to determine fleet requirements and to develop a plan for transferring traffic signaling operations to the City of Atlanta, which includes traffic signals, street markings, signage, and lights.
 - The **Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD)** will create a Sandtown zoning district that will protect the existing zoning designations and protections in Sandtown. Sandtown will then be incorporated into the City's existing planning and zone processes, including the Comprehensive Development Plan. Sandtown will likely become a new Neighborhood Development Unit with all associated rights and authorities, including reviews of rezoning and variance requests.
- The **Department of Watershed Management (DWM)** already provides water services to Sandtown so there will be no impact on those services. Fulton County will continue to provide sewer services as it does in many other municipalities in the County.

The City of Atlanta is a Good Financial Choice

Most people think that living in the City is too expensive. What most people don't realize is that the accelerating prosperity of the City of Atlanta, combined with the increasing urbanization of suburban areas, is rapidly narrowing the differences in tax burdens. Based on our calculations, residents of unincorporated Fulton County will pay higher property taxes in a future unincorporated Fulton County than residents of the City of Atlanta.

Property Tax Payments (based on \$250,000 assessed value)



The City of Atlanta is Ready

The City of Atlanta is prepared to support Sandtown in this process in any way that we can. We are pleased that Sandtown is considering this step, and we are available to answer any questions you might have. We are confident that the residents of Sandtown will make the choice that is best for their community.

The City of Atlanta Embraces Economic Development

Through its Atlanta Development Authority (ADA), the City of Atlanta is prepared to assist the residents of Sandtown in implementing planning guidelines and economic development initiatives that residents want.

We are already working on projects not far from Sandtown within the City of Atlanta:

- A tax allocation district for the Campbellton Road corridor
 - A retail attraction strategy for neighborhood and regional retailers along Campbellton Road
 - Urban Enterprise Zones (UEZ) an economic development tool to stimulate development of mixed-use projects along Campbellton Road
 - Job creation in new UEZ developments
- Designation of the Campbellton Road/County Line area as a UEZ to promote neighborhood scale retail development

In addition, if the residents of Sandtown would like us to extend our efforts into their neighborhoods, we are prepared to do all or any of the following:

- Incorporate the Sandtown LCI recommendations into our strategic plan for stimulating residential, commercial and retail development
- Determine the feasibility of extending the TAD boundaries for Campbellton Road to include the right-of-way on Campbellton to Camp Creek Parkway and on Boat Rock Road and Bakers Ferry Road
- Designate Campbellton Road/Boat Rock Road; Campbellton Road/Camp Creek Parkway; and Boat Rock Road/Bakers Ferry Road as a Mixed-Use UEZ
- Assist the Sandtown Community in marketing and attracting retailers to the development nodes identified in the Sandtown LCI
- Apply for Opportunity Zone designation within appropriate UEZs

Provide small business financing through ADA revolving loan program