



CITY OF ATLANTA

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MAYOR

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May 30, 2006

Via Hand Delivery

The Honorable Lisa Borders, President
and the Members of the Atlanta City Council
55 Trinity Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30335

Dear President Borders and the Members of the Atlanta City Council:

Some of you in recent weeks have approached me with questions regarding the impending changes in Fulton County and the potential impact the creation of additional municipalities in the County might have on the City of Atlanta. I have written this letter to offer my views on these developments as a way of initiating a dialogue with the Council and others interested in this issue.

Let me begin by describing our general principles regarding the changes occurring in Fulton County:

- Municipalization is an appropriate response to increased urbanization. While we believe that the region would be better served through the expansion and/or consolidation of existing governments rather than the creation of new ones (not least due to the cost to taxpayers of supporting dozens of local government infrastructures), we do believe that urban areas should be managed by cities.
- The creation of new cities should not economically disadvantage existing cities.
- Regardless of the number and size of cities created within Fulton County (or elsewhere in the metro region) it is imperative that we work closely together as our interests increasingly align in the areas of water, transportation, and economic development.

Given the upcoming referenda in north and south Fulton County, I am frequently asked whether the City would be interested in annexing portions of Fulton County that are currently unincorporated. The short answer is that the City is well advised to investigate all opportunities for expansion. Unlike many other states, the State of Georgia does not have a formal growth strategy for its cities, and this lack of a formal process has led, in my view, to the proliferation of governments in the state. It has also impeded the sensible growth of existing municipalities that

could facilitate regional planning and encourage more efficiency in the delivery of local services. For those reasons, the City is interested in growth.

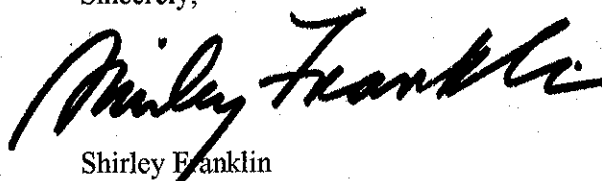
Of course, the City of Atlanta is enjoying a strong burst of organic growth on its own. Based on our current estimates, our population is increasing by approximately 10,000 residents each year without any boundary expansions. The per capita income of City residents now exceeds that of the metro region. While this growth and the increasing prosperity of our residents can be attributed to a number of factors, we believe that our infrastructure investments, improved services and commitment to sound fiscal management have made the City a more attractive place for residents and businesses to relocate. These efforts include:

- Upgrading our water/sewer infrastructure
- Lowering crime rates
- Creating healthy finances (four straight budget surpluses and a fully funded reserve fund)
- Investing in infrastructure such as the Beltline, parks capital improvements, and streets and sidewalks
- Advancing a variety of economic development initiatives including our New Century Economic Development Plan, our Economic Opportunity Fund, and our use of Tax Allocation Districts to accelerate development within the City

Our policy has always been that anyone interested in joining the City is welcome. Our doors are open. For your information, however, communities in south Fulton County interested in joining the City prior to next years referenda must have their petitions for annexation into the City by early July 2006. This deadline is based on the legislation passed by the General Assembly last year.

As communities in unincorporated Fulton County deliberate on their future, we hope that they will strongly consider joining a healthy and prosperous City of Atlanta. We can think of no municipality in the state better positioned to invest in and serve a community than the City of Atlanta.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley Franklin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shirley Franklin