



# DeKalb County Government

178 Sams Street  
Decatur, GA 30030

## Minutes

### ERPS-Employee Relations & Public Safety Committee

*Commissioner LaDena Bolton (Chairperson)*

*Commissioner Chakira Johnson*

*Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson*

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Tuesday, August 5, 2025

2:15 PM

178 Sam's Street, Decatur, GA 30030  
(Multipurpose Room A1201)

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Meeting Started At: 2:45 PM

Attendees: Commissioners Bolton, Johnson, Davis Johnson, Terry, Patrick

**Present**      3 - Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, Commissioner LaDena Bolton, and Chairperson Chakira Johnson

#### I. MINUTES

**2025-1073**      Commission District(s): All  
Minutes for the July 15, 2025 Employee Relations and Public Safety Committee Meeting  
**MOTION was made by Chakira Johnson, seconded by LaDena Bolton, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Bolton, and Chairperson Johnson

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Davis Johnson

#### II. DISCUSSION

Medical Examiner Toxicology Update

*Presentation provided by Medical Examiner Director Dr. Loveless*

*Question MDJ: What do you think is causing an overdose increase in specific populations?*

*Additional details provided by Dr Loveless*

*Question LB: Do you have any data to communicate income or education levels versus this data?*

*Loveless: We do not necessarily collect that information.*

*Question CJ: Do we have data for Hispanic populations?*

*Loveless: We do in the presentation, Hispanic is also considered an ethnicity, which can be hard to delineate*

*Question LB: Did you find any correlation in the 2022 numbers? There is only one hot spot.*

*Loveless: I noticed it too when we input the data. I can't speak to the reason. Additional details provided*

*Comments provided by Commissioner Patrick*

*Question MDJ: What is the annual cost for toxicology?*

*Loveless: probably around \$75,000 a case. We do not have an in-house toxicology lab.*

*Question MDJ: do you use the state or a private lab?*

*Loveless: We use a private lab, which is why our turnaround rate is so high. The state is backlogged.*

*Question MDJ: What if anything, do you want to use the abatement funds for? Is anything provided here?*

*Loveless: Not today, but we have a list of investments around \$300,000 that would help us expand. Additional details provided*

*Question NM: What would it cost to build a toxicology lab, and would it save us funds in the future?*

*Loveless: I would guess in the millions; it would be a large, long-term investment. Additional details provided.*

*Question NM: How specifically is Claratel helping you with?*

*Loveless: We provide them with real-time data and Narcan training so they can go out into the community.*

*Question LB: Is the reorganization at the CDC impacting you?*

*Loveless: our funding comes from the CDC Foundation. We are concerned about future grants, but thus far, nothing has been impacted.*

*Comments provided by Commissioner Patrick*

## DeKalb County Wellness Program

*Information provided by Michelle Walldorff, Risk Management*

*Question LB: Regarding the Pivot Tobacco program, do we have to pay into the program?*

*Walldorff: We have a flat fee; it we paid by person, it would be \$477/person. Additional information provided*

*Comments provided by Commissioner Terry*

### III. AGENDA ITEM

#### *Previously Heard Items*

[2025-0390](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

A Resolution to Establish a Community Advisory Board for the DeKalb County Police Department.

**MOTION was made by Chakira Johnson, seconded by LaDena Bolton, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/18/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 2 - Commissioner Bolton, and Chairperson Johnson**

**Absent: 1 - Commissioner Davis Johnson**

*Information provided by Commissioner Terry*

*Response and information provided by Capt. Albritton*

*Comments provided by Commissioner Bolton*

*Comments provided by Commissioner Johnson*

*Comments provided by Commissioner Massiah*

*Comments provided by Commissioner Patrick*

*LB: I would like to follow up and have someone come back and give us a broader view of the recommendations in front of us Director Lumpkin: We can come back and show you the outreach we already do in each precinct each month.*

*Question TT: based on clause two, why do you all do civilians panels, is it because you have to or because you want to? Director Lumpkin: both, it's the right thing to do. This department is a great example of what CALEA wants from police offices*

*Question TT: who selects the panels? Is that the police?*

*Director Lumpkin: yes for the interviews, yes.*

*Question TT: If CALEA thinks this is a good thing and you all do to during the accreditation process then why not establish a long-term board?*

*Question Bolton: Does the CALENA panel serve as a review panel*

*-CJ: motion to defer for 30 days*

*New Agenda Items*

2025-1010

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

Approval of Usage of SPLOST II Funds in Category A1-Public Safety Purposes, for a Renovation Assessment of Fire Stations 18, 19 and 20

**MOTION was made by Chakira Johnson, seconded by LaDena Bolton, that this agenda item be recommended for approval to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/12/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Bolton, and Chairperson Johnson

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Davis Johnson

*Information provided by COO Williams Q*

*Bolton: what is the total sum?*

*Williams: not to exceed \$100,000*

*-CJ: motion to approve*

2025-1011

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

FY21 & FY23 Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN): Community Policing Microgrant Program, \$36,963.00

**MOTION was made by Chakira Johnson, seconded by LaDena Bolton, that this agenda item be recommended for approval to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/12/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Bolton, and Chairperson Johnson

**Absent: 1 - Commissioner Davis Johnson**

*Information provided by COO Williams*

*-CJ: motion to approve*

2025-1088

Commission District(s): All Commission District  
Grant Acceptance - FY25 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area  
(HIDTA) Grant, \$276,156.00

**This agenda item was recommended holding in committee to the  
Board of Commissioners due back on 8/12/2025 .**

*Item not heard - due to a lack of Committee time - Recommend hold in Committee*

2025-1002

Commission District(s): ALL  
REN - Contract No. 1342927 Decals for County Vehicles (Annual  
Contract - 2nd Renewal of 2 Options to Renew): for use by the  
Departments of Police Services (PS), Fire Rescue (FR) and Marshal's  
Office. This contract consists of providing the production and  
installation of vinyl decals for County vehicles. This request seeks to  
ratify a previously provided contract term increase and funds in the  
amount of \$25,000.00 for services provided during the 1st renewal  
term. This request also seeks to exercise the 2nd renewal option  
through July 31, 2026. Awarded to AKO Signs, Inc. Amount Not To  
Exceed: \$156,554.00.

**This agenda item was recommended holding in committee to the  
Board of Commissioners due back on 8/12/2025 .**

*Item not heard - due to a lack of Committee time - Recommend hold in Committee*

2025-1067

Commission District(s): ALL  
CO - Change Order No. 4 to Contract No. 1295994 Parts for Vehicles  
and Off-Road Equipment, Including Batteries (Annual with 2 Options  
to Renew): for use by Public Works - Fleet Management to be used by  
Police Services (PS). This request seeks to increase the contract funds  
and term through October 31, 2026. Request will assist in acquiring  
necessary heavy-duty wraps for outfitting and upgrading the push  
bumpers of existing police vehicles for PIT maneuver purposes.  
Awarded to West Chatham Warning Devices, Inc. Amount Not To  
Exceed: \$176,375.00.

**This agenda item was recommended holding in committee to the  
Board of Commissioners due back on 8/12/2025 .**

*Item not heard - due to a lack of Committee time - Recommend hold in Committee*

Meeting Concluded At: 4:09 PM

**MOTION was made by Chakira Johnson, seconded by LaDena Bolton, that this agenda item be adjourned meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Bolton, and Chairperson Johnson

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Davis Johnson

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Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC