



## CITY OF ATLANTA

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ANDRE DICKENS  
MAYOR

January 8, 2024

Dear President Shipman, Members of Atlanta City Council and Interim Municipal Clerk,

I am writing to update you on the progress and status of the Public Safety Training Center.

As you know, public safety is a top priority of my Administration. We need to continue to invest in both policing and non-policing efforts that address the root causes of crime.

The crime statistics that were released last week show that we are, indeed, making great progress.

In regard to the status of the petitions submitted to the Clerk's office, let me make clear: I want to know what is in the boxes as much as anyone. As you are aware, until the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals makes a final ruling on the legal process, the City cannot begin the official validation of the signatures that were submitted. The ruling could occur in the coming weeks.

Once that 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit makes its decision, I will recommend that the City Council direct the Clerk to begin the validation of the petitions in accordance with the process as published as soon as possible.

Further, I remain committed to full transparency of the process. The submitted petitions, as you know, are online and have been made available to the public.

As it relates to the Public Safety Training Center, all pre-construction work is complete and daily construction continues. Some of what's completed thus far:

- Double silt fencing
- Retention ponds
- Erosion control plan
- Storm Water Management plan
- Site Grading
- Construction fencing
- Pad-Ready Prep for buildings
- Underground sewage installation
- Over 100 trees planted
- Curb and gutter installed
- Fire hydrants installed
- Underground water installed
- Interior roads paved
- Evoc skills pad paved

The design for Phase I of trails is also complete, which includes areas around the ponds and public spaces, a total of approximately 1.4 miles.

My office will be reaching out to organize a tour for each of you to see our progress.

Further, the Community Stakeholder Advisory Committee (CSAC) continues to hold quarterly meetings for updates, recommendations, and collaboration.

My staff continues to meet monthly on implementing recommendations from the Mayor's South River Forest and Public Safety Training Center Task Force.

I want to make Atlanta the safest city in America. Through Q3 of last year, we had the third highest reduction in violent crime in the nation. To continue that trend, we need the best trained police officers, fire fighters, and first responders. I am convinced that the Public Safety Training Center will help accomplish that goal.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andre Dickens", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andre Dickens

Mayor

City of Atlanta