



Fulton County District 5 News

Emma I. Darnell, J.D., Commissioner



January 4, 2010

Commissioner's Corner

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

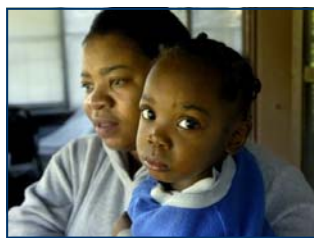
Thank you for all you have done to bring about the Sustainable Community in your neighborhood and on your street. What is the "Sustainable Community?" I like the definition of the National Association of Counties (NACO). A sustainable community according to NACO is "Economically Strong Environmentally Safe and Socially Equitable, that is, with "liberty and justice for all."

Looking back over the past year-the past decade, we can be encouraged by the progress we have made toward the achievement of these goals. According to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), Fulton County has maintained its position as the "Number One" County in the region in both growth and population. We have come to the end of a tough year with reserves exceeding 5%. The year 2010 will be tough. However, because we saved money during the "good days", we will be able to maintain present service levels in 2010 without a property tax increase.

Continued on Next Page...

Medical Homes Focus of House and Senate "Health Reform" Legislation

The development of community based health teams to support the development of medical homes is a key provision of the – Managers Amendment to "the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" (H.R. 3590) adopted by the U.S. Senate on December 24 as part of its "Health Reform" legislation. Further, the House Bill (H.R. 3962) provides for the expansion and reorientation of a medical home demonstration project in Medicare and establishes a medical home pilot program to access the feasibility of reimbursing for qualified patient-centered medical homes. Action on Health Reform legislation has been scheduled for early January.



Budget Commission Recommends Cuts in Funding to Non-Profit Agencies

The Budget Commission has recommended a substantial cut in funds to non-profit agencies providing assistance to at-risk youth, senior adults, homeless and disabled residents of Fulton County.

On December 2, by Resolution, the Board of Commissioners established services to "special populations" such as at-risk youth as a major Budget priority. Public hearings on the FY 2010 Tentative Budget will be held January 6 and January 20 at the Fulton County Government Center, 141 Pryor Street, Assembly Hall, at 10:00am. Speakers will be scheduled in the order of on-site registration with the Clerk.

Home-Delivered Meals to Frail Elderly Held

A motion by Darnell, seconded by Edwards to approve the award of a contract to provide home-delivered meals to eligible frail elderly was held on December 16, 2009 due to the failure to receive four (4) affirmative votes.

Voting Yes: Darnell, Eaves, Edwards

Present but not voting: Boxill

Not Voting: Pitts, Riley, Lowe

The item will be placed on the Agenda for a (second) vote on January 6, 2010.

Continued on Next Page...

Commissioner's Corner

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However, in the area of environment and social justice, major challenges lie ahead. We have too many sewage overflows from “combined sewers” during heavy rainfalls in NW Atlanta... Too many diesel truck stops, too many low-flying planes, too much noise, coal-burning power plants, and particles you can't see. Too much asthma, too much diabetes – too much death! (not “on time” but “before time”) “Health disparities” has changed from a panel discussion to a major program and policy initiative of Fulton County Government.

As we move forward together in the days ahead, it is clear we must do more than “balance the books”. In partnership with other governments, the faith community, business and educational institutions, we must save lives. We must meet our fundamental obligations under the law to “protect the health and safety of all the people of Fulton County, including the people of District 5.”

“If not us who? If not now, when?”

For the Children,



Lincoln Homes Flood Victims Return Home

Fulton County Housing & Human Services officials have completed an emergency assistance program to residents of the Lincoln Homes Community, primarily senior adults who were victims of the September Floods. Residents have returned to their homes or relocated to new housing.

Fulton Maintenance Staff Completes Senior Vehicle Inspection in District 5

Inspections of vehicles (temporarily) assigned to the Dogwood, New Horizons, and Northside Shepherd Senior Neighborhood Centers were completed by Fulton County Central Maintenance October 6 – October 20.

[Click here to view the “\(Senior\) Vehicle Transportation Reports”](#)

The Senior (Neighborhood) Center Transportation Program in District 5 is operated by the Atlanta Transportation System (ATS), a sub-contractor of the State of Georgia, Thomas Dortch, President.

Fulton County initiated the 2009 Inspection Program after numerous complaints from clients regarding the quality of services and equipment used in the Senior (Neighborhood) Center Program.

(30-Day) Audit Work Plan and Timeline: Grady Health System (GHS)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Activity</u>
1	Fulton	Review MOU data; select sample and forward to GHS
2	GHS	Prepares demographic forms and returns to FC
3	GHS	Prepares for FC on-site tests at GHS
4	Fulton	Completes test work at Grady
5	Fulton	Reviews data with Authority auditor (CBH) lists outstanding items; Review with GHS and CBH, Prepares Final Report

[Click here for more information regarding the “GHS Quarterly Audit Work Plan and Timeline”](#)

For more information or to comment on this Report contact Commissioner Darnell by visiting our website at www.emmadarnell.com, by e-mail at emma.darnell@fultoncountyga.gov, phone at (404) 612-8222 or by mail at 141 Pryor St. Suite 10023 Atlanta, Georgia 30303.