
DEKALB COUNTY

W. Burrell Ellis, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CEO ANNOUNCES BOARD TO REVIEW
WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT**
Former Commissioner to Chair Transparency and Accountability Board

DECATUR – DeKalb County Chief Executive Officer Burrell Ellis announced the establishment of the Board of Transparency & Accountability (BTA) to investigate allegations of waste, fraud and abuse in the county and to improve operations while restoring integrity and public trust in government. The BTA will be responsible for organizing the office of Transparency and Accountability and the selection of an Inspector General to head the office.

“Since taking office in January, my office has been inundated with a growing number of requests from citizens and employees that a variety of departments be investigated because of allegations of waste, fraud and abuse. While reviewing several departments, we realized that there remains a greater need for a dedicated team to investigate these concerns. We have examined best practices and looked at what other local governments are doing to investigate these issues while promoting integrity and restoring public trust”, said CEO Ellis. “Transparency in government is an important part of serving the citizens of DeKalb County. We want our citizens to have the highest confidence in the way DeKalb County does business and this board will help to evaluate our government to ensure it is running as efficiently and effectively as possible.”

The BTA is a citizen review panel that is comprised of seven citizens who represent the faith, legal, higher education, public service and business communities.

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CEO Ellis has chosen the following citizens as board members:

Gale Walldorff, former DeKalb County Commissioner and Community Leader;

Neville W. Anderson Sr., President, Neville W. Anderson, CPA, P.C.;

Donald R Byrd, Chief Operating Officer, Vista Realty Partners, LLC;

Elizabeth Kiss, President, Agnes Scott College;

Celena M. Matlock, Director of Financial Compliance, Turner Broadcasting System, Inc;

Jonathan Weintraub, Attorney;

Joseph L. Williams, Pastor, Salem Baptist Church

CEO Ellis has asked former Commissioner Gale Walldorff to serve as board chair. “As a resident of DeKalb County for more than 30 years and a former commissioner, I am extremely honored to serve DeKalb County in this capacity,” said Gale Walldorff. “CEO Ellis and I often discussed ways to improve transparency in government when he and I served together on the Board of Commissions. I am happy to know these best practices are finally being implemented. I have always spoken up for transparency and I will continue to do that as I accept this responsibility on behalf of the taxpaying citizens of DeKalb County.”

For more information, please visit www.yourdekalb.com.

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