

# dekalbSTRONG

## Newsletter

DeKalb Cityhood



(From a DeKalb Strong Supporter)

A study on feasibility,  
Showed promising possibility,  
But LaVista Hills' team,  
Knew, to pull off their scheme,  
Required voter gullibility.

### Legislative Committee on cityhood and annexation procedures meets this Monday

While the fight over cityhood and annexation in DeKalb has been divisive, there is one thing almost everyone agrees on: the cityhood process is broken.

Recognizing how flawed the process has become, legislators created committees to look at fixing their policies as to how proposed cities and annexations happen. Some of the ideas floated include:

- Returning more local control to the process, requiring that bill sponsors actually represent citizens in the proposed city and giving local legislators more input in the process
- Banning last-minute map changes
- Requiring impact studies for the larger communities affected by incorporation and annexation.

We believe that citizens should have more input in the creation of new cities, and that petitions from residents be required before new city governments can be put on the ballot.

The first meeting of the Senate Committee is this Monday, Room 125, State Capitol. It is open to the public. You can also email the members of the committee with your suggestions and comments.

Senate Members:

[elena.parent@senate.ga.gov](mailto:elena.parent@senate.ga.gov), [charlie.bethel@senate.ga.gov](mailto:charlie.bethel@senate.ga.gov), [frank.ginn@senate.ga.gov](mailto:frank.ginn@senate.ga.gov), [senatorfranmillar@gmail.com](mailto:senatorfranmillar@gmail.com), [Fran.Millar@senate.ga.gov](mailto:Fran.Millar@senate.ga.gov), [info@senatoralbers.com](mailto:info@senatoralbers.com)

### LVH Alliance holds high-dollar fundraiser with potential city vendors

DeKalb County's last CEO, Burrell Ellis, was sent to prison for shaking down county contractors for campaign cash.

Now, before the city has even been created, LVH Alliance is holding a \$500-a-plate fundraiser for vendors. For their \$500 suggested minimum, vendors will get to rub elbows with hopeful city leaders, as well as a large number of existing city mayors at this "invitation only" event.

Creating more politicians, and more people soliciting campaign cash from those who do business with the government, is a very poor way to solve our problems.

### Brookhaven gears up for a fight with Sandy Springs

Unfortunately, there is a trend of break-away cities fighting with one another instead of cooperating on regional issues, such as transportation.

The latest squabble is between Brookhaven and Sandy Springs. Brookhaven is complaining that Sandy Springs new development on their border might fill Sandy Springs coffers, but negatively impacts Brookhaven residents. It is a change of tune for Brookhaven; they themselves did not do the Atlanta Regional Commission's recommended traffic study before approving increased density at Executive Park. Executive Park is on the far end of the city where it mainly impacts neighbors over the city line.

Having an increased number of governments that act without a regional perspective is going to increase most of the problems we face as a metro area, regardless of what city boundary within which we may reside. The bottom line is that cities DO NOT cooperate with each other, they compete. This fact reduces economic efficiency and quality of life for all within a metro area.

### Upcoming Events

DeKalb Strong debate  
Sept. 30, 7 p.m.  
Lakeside High School

Laurel Ridge Shamrock Civic Association Q&A  
October 13<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.  
Druid Hills Middle School

We're very interested in presenting information on our position in your neighborhood! Please send an email to [info@dekalbstrong.com](mailto:info@dekalbstrong.com) if you are interested in hosting an information event in your home or in another venue in your neighborhood. If you have an active civic association, please encourage them to host an event to help educate your area. We are committed to attending and to speaking at as many educational sessions as possible.

### Volunteers

We can use help in a number of areas. Are you willing to distribute flyers in your neighborhood? Mail cards to your neighbors? Participate in phone-banking? If you would like to support us by volunteering your time and energy please send us an email at [info@dekalbstrong.com](mailto:info@dekalbstrong.com).

### Fundraising

We are working steadily to educate voters and turn out as many of them as possible to the polls in November. We have yard signs to supply, materials to print, and many related campaign activities planned leading up to the November 3<sup>rd</sup> referendum. These efforts are not cheap! Please consider making a donation to DeKalb Strong. You can support our efforts by making a donation any of three ways:

1. Donate at <http://dekalbstrong.com/contact-us-donate/>
2. In person at one of our events – we can accept funds in any manner including credit card.
3. Mail a check payable to DeKalb Strong to the address below:

DeKalb Strong  
PO Box 215  
2897 N. Druid Hills Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

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You are receiving this email because you have in the past expressed interested in stopping the cityhood and annexations plans as they exist in 2015.

#### Our mailing address is:

DeKalb Strong  
P.O. Box 215  
2897 N. Druid Hills Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

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