

THE CITY OF LITHONIA 2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE



Adopted March 2021

prepared by the

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lithonia is one of DeKalb County's smallest cities, both in population and geography. However, it has a rich history, a strong sense of place, and a community that is determined to shape their future. Lithonia benefits from a geography that is close to Interstate 20 and surrounded by the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, providing easy access to major employment centers and environmentally-oriented recreation opportunities. Citizens appreciate the quality of life offered in the community, while simultaneously advocating for increased opportunities for economic and community development. Creating new opportunities while preserving the existing quality of life will achieve the balance the community is looking for in attaining the vision set out in this comprehensive plan.

Griffith Way Rd Rd Rock Chapel THE CITY OF LITHONIA Tuner Hill North Rd LITHONIA CITY CEMETERY vell St Pine Mountain Rd BRUCE Parkway Tr STREET SCHOOL RUINS LITHONIA HISTORIC AFRICAN AMERICAN CEMETERY 1 MIDDLE SCHOOL $\overline{\blacksquare}$ HISTORIC AFRICAN AMERICAN LUCIOUS SANDERS **CEMETERY 2** RECREATION CENTER & LITHONIA SENIOR CENTER LITHONIA FIRST STEWART UNITED METHODIST AMPHITHEATER CHURCH m LITHONIA PARK Î Bruce LITHONIA-DAVIDSON BRANCH LIBRARY LITHONIA **1** Wai LITHONIA CITY HALL WOMEN'S CLUB MAINST FIRST ST PAUL AME CHURCH **(** Chupp Rd Chupp Rd Covington Hwy Amanda Dr 働 20 Old Hillanda 🛛 Di 1/2 MILES 1/4 GREENSPACE LANDMARKS CEMETERY RAILROADS CHURCH HISTORIC ASSET I **COMMUNITY PARK** 曲 (盦) COMMUNITY FACILITY SCHOOL

eritage | The City of Lithonia 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update

CHAPTER 1

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF LITHONIA



"I had spent four years in the US Army and came back and couldn't even register to vote. I started wondering what's wrong." - Luctous Sanders

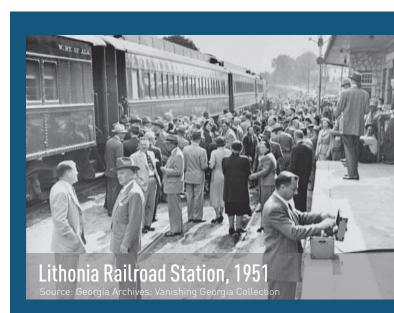
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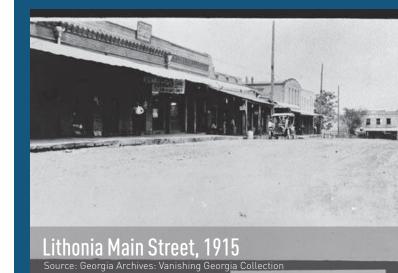
LUCIOUS SANDERS As de Civil Richs Mocement drew rational amenion, level Lifhenians file laterous Sonders worked for equality in their own backgade. After international form World War L. he isomed that he couldn't register to the own ded worms rights drives where Lifbonians dynamide to the owner successful, and these early efforts inspiral facence studies to both the Lifbonia Civice Legue can organization that ought racial discumination and promoted ervic awdreness:

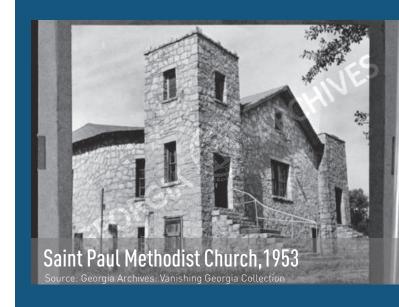
The name "Lithonia" derives from the Greek words for rock, "lithos", and place, "onia." Granite construction notably characterizes the city as it features prominently in buildings throughout Lithonia. Located approximately 20 miles east of downtown Atlanta along the I-20 corridor, the city was originally a crossroads settlement. It served the trading needs of a small community of rural farmers, and it grew with the development of the Georgia Railroad (now CSX). The line, which runs southeast-to-northwest through the commercial center of town, came to Lithonia in 1845. By 1856, the town incorporated; its original boundary extended just onehalf mile in circumference. At this time, there were already whites-only educational facilities, churches, and a community cemetery among the landmarks in the community.

The Civil War left its mark on Lithonia when the railroad depot was destroyed by General Sherman's troops in 1864. However, the late 19th century brought revitalized commercial industries to the community. In 1879, the first granite quarry opened near Lithonia, and in 1888, the city of Lithonia was re-chartered by the state legislature. In 1895, the Davidson Granite Company was founded and a local, whites-only private school, The Seminary, opened in the community. Commercial development along Main Street flourished during this era - the oldest surviving buildings downtown date to this period and were constructed of brick and granite, many by African Americans. A 1948 article in the DeKalb New Era and the Lithonia Journal recognized three African American men vital to Main Street's development - Aleck Meadow, Job Johnson, and Mart Bush - though their work was categorized as manual when two of the three were described as drafters, a skilled profession.

The era after the Civil War also saw the organization of African-American church congregations, ultimately giving rise some of the first, and only, educational facilities for African Americans in DeKalb County. In 1869, the Antioch Lithonia Baptist Church became the first documented African American congregation in DeKalb County. It, along with the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, offered education for African American children as early as 1884.







The Lithonia Negro School, also known as the Bruce Street School, was the first public school constructed for African American students during the segregation era in DeKalb County. In 1938, funds were raised by teachers from the Yellow River School, a former African American school located in the vicinity whose facility was destroyed by fire in 1935 and six acres were purchased on Bruce Street where the school was constructed of local granite for \$18,000. Though originally only serving grades one through eleven, the school held its first high school graduation in 1943. Bruce Street School burned sometime in the 1950s after being shuttered during the school equalization era, but remnants of the building are still extant today.

Bruce Street also boasts the only two African American cemeteries in Lithonia. Cemetery One is a 6.7-acre cemetery adjacent to the Lithonia Senior Center. Its earliest known burial is of Sam Murders in 1911 and remains active to this day. Cemetery Two, also known as the Bruce Street Cemetery, is located across Bruce Street from Cemetery One. This one-acre cemetery includes some 75 graves, the earliest of which dates to 1963.

In 1907, the first whites-only public library in DeKalb County was established in Lithonia. In 1928, the whitesonly Lithonia Women's Club built their clubhouse on Wiggins Street, which eventually also contained the city's library. The Lithonia Speedway and County Club, one of the few country clubs in the nation owned by African Americans during the mid-twentieth century, provided African Americans in the area with a variety of entertainment, from stock car racing to concerts from legends such as B.B. King, Gladys Knight, and James Brown.

Bruce Street School Circa 1953



Bruce Street School Ruins Today



Growth in Lithonia slowed during the Great Depression, but by the middle of the 20th century, construction had begun on Interstate 20, accelerating the pace of suburban development, as well as the decline of historic downtowns, in DeKalb County. In 1963, voters in Lithonia approved the development of Lithonia Plaza as an urban renewal project, which resulted in the loss of many historic buildings including a train depot, fire station, and one of the city's first churches. The street grid of the time was also altered significantly to accommodate the development. Nonetheless, news articles of the time declared this a positive step toward the modernity of the city.

The opening of the Mall at Stonecrest in 2001 marked a new era of development for Lithonia. The city was linked to regional attractions such as Panola Mountain and the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area through the construction of an extensive network of PATH trails. In addition, new initiatives continue to be undertaken, including the adoption of a historic preservation ordinance, despite the 2008 economic downturn and 2020 pandemic. Though Lithonia's population steadily decreased beginning in the 1980s, its African American population grew significantly over the past several decades to over 80% in 2019, leading to Lithonia becoming a "blackmajority" city, one of more than 1,262 such cities in the nation*. A majority of these cities - emerging between the 1970s and 2010s due to the "New Great Migration" and intra-metropolitan movement - are located in the South, where black professionals and college-graduates have flocked to economically-rising areas that also boast strong cultural and familial ties. With a resurgence in population between 2010 and 2019, Lithonia is poised to capitalize on the many assets it and other black-majority cities contain, including \$609 billion in owner-occupied housing assets, 10,000 public schools, and over 3 million businesses, as well as the less tangible, yet equally as rich, cultural resources.

* Only US cities in which population figures exist for each decennial census from 1970 and 2010, and the median total population of those figures exceeds 2,500 were included. It is safe to assume that there are a number of smaller black-majority cities such as Lithonia throughout the nation.



Lithonia's Famous Citizens



Joseph 'Max' Cleland:

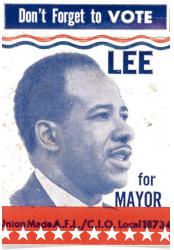
Born in Atlanta in 1942, and raised in Lithonia, Cleland is a Vietnam Veteran and Silver and Bronze Star recipient. He served as Georgia's Secretary of State from 1983 to 1997, and he served as United States Senator from 1997 through 2003.

Lucious Sanders:

Born July 15, 1915, Lucious Sanders was raised in Lithonia and enlisted in the U.S. Army on April 7, 1941. After returning from military service during WWII, he fought for voting rights and equal services for African Americans in DeKalb County. He was a founding member of the Lithonia Civic League.

EVENTS





Howard Lee:

Born July 28, 1934, he was raised in Lithonia. He attended the equalizationera "Bruce Street School" and tells of incidents of racial intimidation in his biography "The Courage to Lead: One Man's Journey in Public Service". He was first and only black Mayor of Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Source: City of Lithonia Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and Proposed Design Guidelines, and Brookings Institution. Max Cleland Photo Source: New Georgia Encyclopedia. Howard Lee Photo Source: WUNC <u>1840-1895</u>

- 1840 Crossroads Community Formed 1845 - Georgia Railroad Corridor Completed 1846 - Railroad Records Referred to "Lithonia" 1847 - First Whites-Only School Established 1848 - Lithonia Baptist Church Formed 1851 - City Cemetery Established 1856 - City Incorporated with 5 Citizen Commission 1860 - Lithonia Baptist Church Formed 1864 - General Sherman Burned Rail Depot 1869 - First African American Church Formed 1879 - First Granite Quarry Opened Nearby 1887 - First Dekalb Newspaper: "The New Era" 1888 - City Re-Chartered with Mayor & Commission 1895 - Davidson Granite Company Founded 1905-2001 1905 - Electricity by Hydro-Plant on South River 1907 - First Dekalb, Whites-Only Library 1916 - Water/Sewer System Established
- 1928 Lithonia Women's Club Built (Whites-Only) 1929 - Stone Mountain Grit Company Formed
- 1938 First African American School (Bruce St.)
- 1950 Lithonia City Park Built
- 1950 Stone Mountain Grit Plant Opened
- 1956 I-20 Construction Begun
- 1963 Voters Approve Lithonia Plaza (Urban Renewal Project)

2001 - Stonecrest Mall Opened South of City



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DEMOGRAPHIC & RELEVANT STUDIES SUMMARY

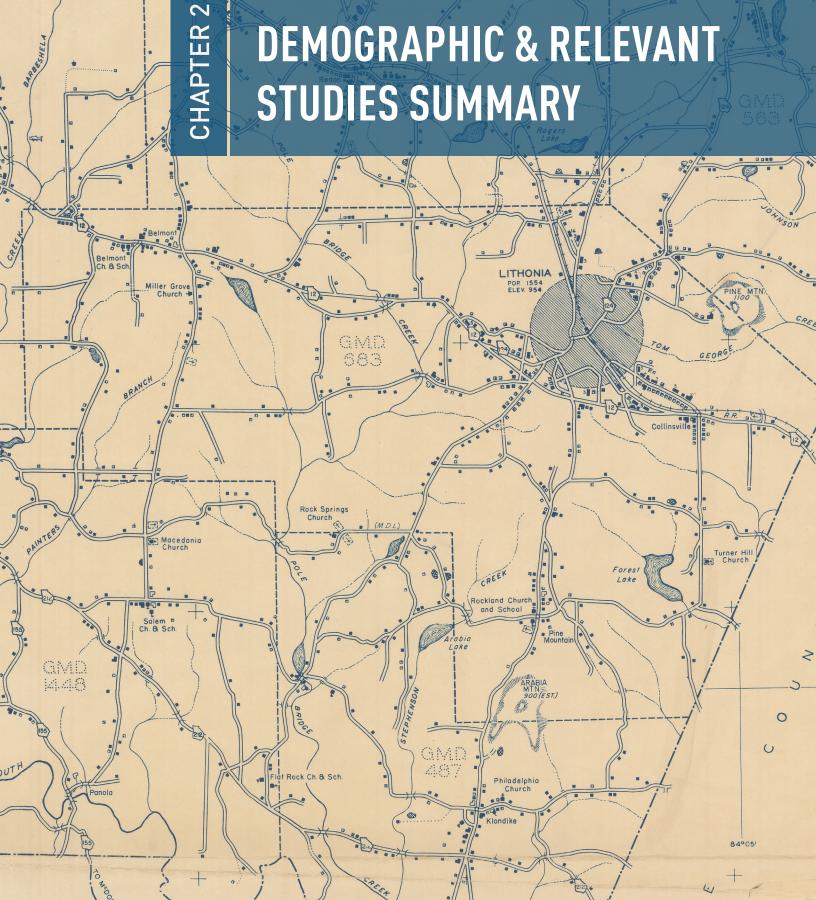
ROOKED

Bethel Church

GMD 1398

Church

Rockdale Tabernacie 00

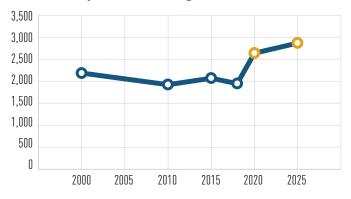


DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

Population

The City of Lithonia identifies itself as a "quintessential urban village." With a population around 2,000 individuals, the city retains the benefits and faces the challenges of a small town. Lithonia is predominantly African American and prides itself on a culture that promotes African American empowerment and entrepreneurship. In recent years, the City has welcomed a small share of new residents who identify as Asian and Latino, but overall, Lithonia remains majority African American.

Lithonia Population Change¹



Employment & Commute Characteristics

The City is located along I-20 and is near major commercial centers in southern DeKalb County. Less than 1% of Lithonia's residents work within the city's limits. The vast majority of workers commute outside the city for employment. Given Lithonia's small geography this is not altogether surprising, particularly because of the city's close proximity to downtown Atlanta and other major employment centers.

Nonetheless, the city continues to emphasize the importance of local business development and job creation. Its proximity to a major interstate and other amenities presents the opportunity for the City to shape its growth as the City's population is projected to increase by around 1,000 residents within 5 years.

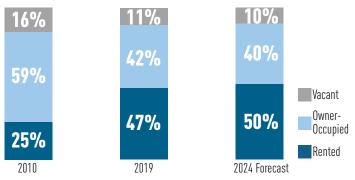
Commuter Inflow-Outflow²



Housing

Throughout the Comprehensive Planning process, concerns were consistently voiced about distribution of owner occupied, renter occupied, and vacant houses. Recent figures show that the share of vacant units has decreased since 2010 from roughly 16% to 11% in 2019. This is in part because the owner occupancy has increased, but also the overall number of housing units has increased.

Housing Occupancy Status³



Regardless of these promising numbers, code enforcement and vacancy remain challenges. Median home values have remained stagnant since the last comprehensive plan update and have slightly decreased from \$80,800 to \$77,300.

In 2013, the City in partnership with ARC undertook a housing inventory. More information about this assessment and its results are on the following page.

1. Data before 2020 sourced from American Community Survey Estimates & Census Data. Projections for 2020 & 2025 sourced from Esri Business Analyst.

Inflow/Outflow data sourced from Census on the Map.

^{3.} Housing occupancy status data from Esri Business Analyst

RELEVANT STUDIES SUMMARY

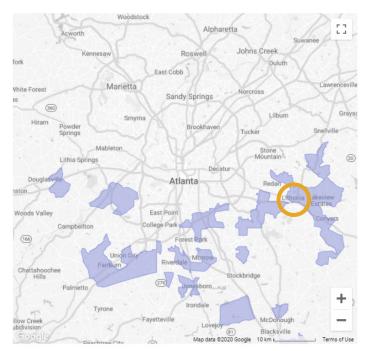
Lithonia Housing Inventory

An inventory of all residential properties was completed in 2013 as a part of the Lithonia's participation in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. A web-based tool utilizing Geographic Information Systems technology was developed, resulting in an interactive map of the Lithonia's existing housing conditions. The inventory is broadly divided into three main sections – general information, housing characteristics, and frontage characteristics – and each property is assigned a housing condition of either good, fair, deteriorated, or dilapidated. A map showing the distribution of housing conditions appears on the next page. A companion report identifies strategies Lithonia may pursue to remedy current housing inventory deficiencies.

Metro Atlanta Housing Strategy

ARC launched the Metro Atlanta Housing Strategy (MAHS) in 2019 as a toolbox designed to help local governments and communities better understand and address their housing challenges.

The MAHS places Lithonia in Submarket 8 and provides strategies to address Lithonia's specific housing challenges, including increasing the housing supply by reducing development costs and barriers; preserving the supply of affordable housing by coordinating across agencies and among governments; and promoting housing stability by stabilizing existing residents. Additional information can be found at metroatlhousing. org.



Metro Atlanta Housing Strategy - Submarket 8 Summary

Submarket 8

Lower-priced moderately-sized suburban homes in neighborhoods mostly consisting of homeowners, albeit with an increasing proportion of renters.

- > The home sales prices per square foot are the lowest and have increased the slowest among all the Submarkets
- Nearly a quarter of units are multifamily, albeit with practically no net gain in multifamily units since 2010
- > Greatest increase in the proportion of non-white residents



TOP STRATEGIES FOR SUBMARKET 8

Increase
 Supply
 Preserve
 Affordable Supply

Reduce Housing & Transportation Costs Expand Capital Resources

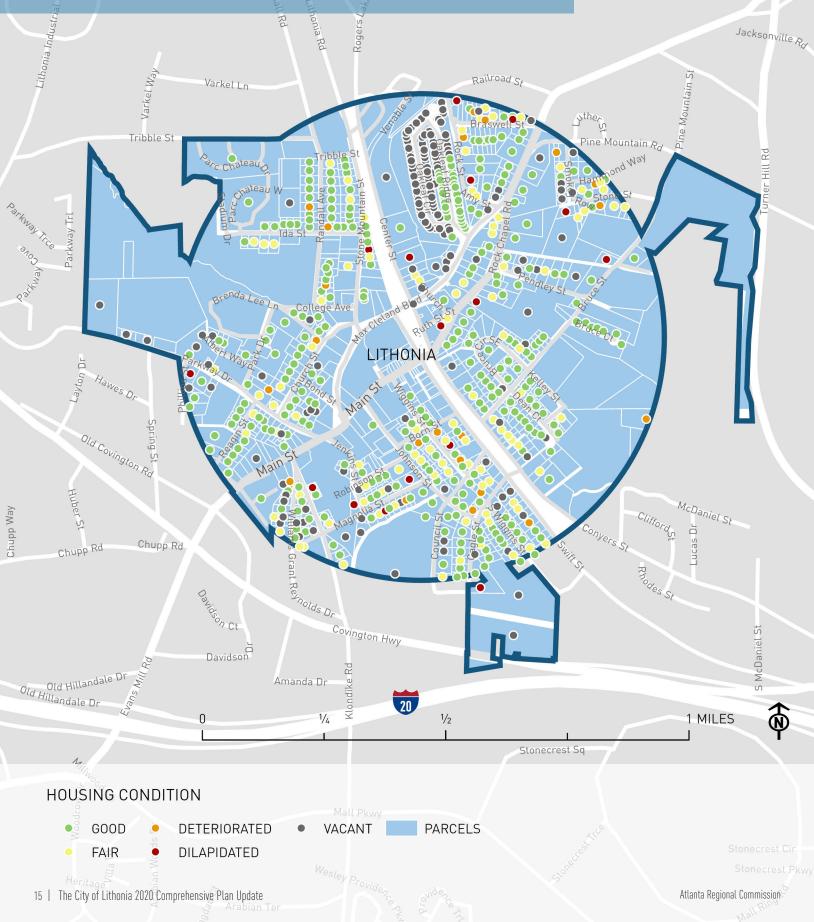
Promote Housing Stability Develop Leadership & Collaboration on Affordability

LITHONIA HOUSING INVENTORY

Griffith Way

Union Grove Rd

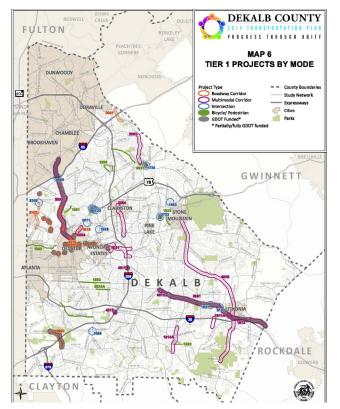
Rock Chapel Rd



RELEVANT STUDIES SUMMARY

Dekalb County Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Adopted in 2014, the DeKalb County Comprehensive Transportation Plan identifies priority transportation projects for the County and its cities. The two most frequently cited transportation concerns for Lithonia are the need for greater sidewalk connectivity and the desire to repair poor road conditions.



Corridor Study

The plan identifies highest priority projects as Tier 1(see map above). The Heritage Corridor Study is a Tier 1 project that calls for a multi-modal feasibility assessment of connecting downtown Lithonia to downtown Stone Mountain.

| Project ID | Project Name | Project Description | Probable Capital Cost |
|------------|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 6026 | Heritage Corridor Study | Perform a multimodal corridor study that will consider roadway, bike, and pedestrian improvements throughout and connecting Stone Mountain and Lithonia downtowns, where needed, short-term pedestrian improvements will be considered to improve pedestrian crossings. | \$200.000 |

Greenway Projects

Three projects identified in the plan underscore the need for greater pedestrian opportunities, particularly the opportunity to connect to the greater Arabia Mountain PATH.

| Project ID | Project Name | Project Description | Probable Capital Cost |
|------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| 1301 | Lithonia Downtown Greenway System – Loop A | Construct a downtown greenway system to include multi-purpose trails and pedestrian lighting (Loop A: Wiggins To Main St. to Conyers to Bruce St.) | \$1,000,000 |
| 1302 | Lithonia Downtown Greenway System – Loop B | Construct a downtown greenway system to include multi-purpose trails and pedestrian lighting (Loop B: Wiggins to Main St. to Parkway Rd to Park Dr. to College Ave. to Stone Mountain to Max Cleland). | \$1,000,000 |
| 1303 | Lithonia Downtown Greenway System – Loop C | Construct a downtown greenway system to include multi-purpose trails and pedestrian lighting (Loop C: Main St to extended Stone Mountain St to Max Cleland to Center St.) | \$500,000 |

Grid Connectivity Project

Another project calls for reestablishment of the former grid pattern that was disrupted with the construction of the Lithonia Plaza in the 1970s.

| Project ID | Project Name | Project Description | Probable Capital Cost |
|------------|--|---|--------------------------|
| 1384 | Stone Mountain St Multi-modal Corridor Extension | Extend Stone Mountain St. from Max Cleland to Main St. including sidewalks. | \$1,000,000 |

MARTA Service

The establishment of a MARTA bus stop at the intersection of Conyers and Bruce streets is a matter of ongoing discussion.

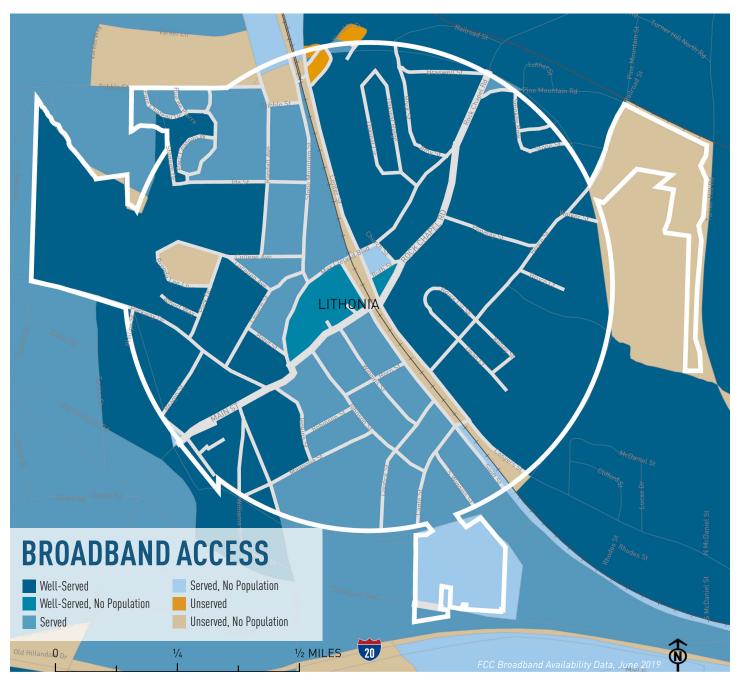


RELEVANT STUDIES SUMMARY

Broadband Services

According to the most recent available data from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Georgia Broadband Center, only 1% of households and businesses in DeKalb County were unserved by broadband as of 2017. This is against the background of the FCC reporting that as of 2017, 8% of locations statewide were unserved by broadband. This information is illustrated in the visual below, which shows that the vast majority of Lithonia is served by broadband. Unserved pockets may be representative of extensive surface parking, undeveloped lots, or simply older developments, such as the area east of the city limits.

Broadly, Lithonia should actively promote the deployment of broadband services throughout the City, including to currently unserved areas. City officials should take necessary steps to achieve state certification as a Broadband Ready Community or designation of facilities and developments as Georgia Broadband Ready Community Sites.



CHAPTER 3

COMMUNITY INPUT

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COMMUNITY INPUT

COMMUNITY VISION STATEMENT

Lithonia is a nurturing small town, safe for families, in harmony with the environment, preserving its history and culture, while creating opportunity for entrepreneurship, growth and economic development.

Engagement Summary

The 2020 comprehensive plan update was largely conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Social distancing precautions limited in-person community engagement options throughout the course of the update. Despite this hurdle, the Steering Committee virtually convened three times using the Microsoft Teams platform to provide direction and feedback at key points in the process. Recordings of Committee meetings are available on the City's website. A survey for residents to express their opinions about Lithonia's future was provided on the City's website, its newsletter, as well as its Facebook page. Paper copies were provided at City Hall. Fifteen responses were received.

What is One Thing You Would Tell Someone About Lithonia?





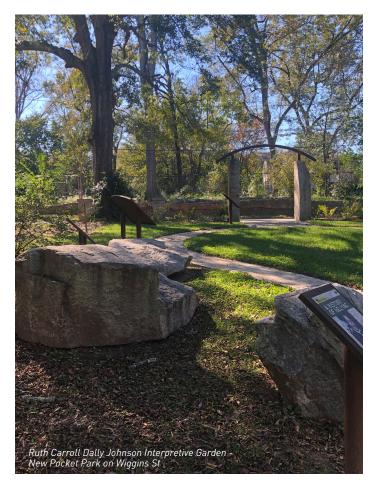
NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES

Cultural Assets

Lithonia's residents are proud of their small town's friendly, close-knit community and abundant cultural assets. Lithonia is both home to and near several cultural and historic resources, including Dekalb County's first public school for African Americans on Bruce Street and the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area. Residents feel the City actively promotes a culture of African American empowerment.

Environment & Greenspace

In addition to rich, cultural resources, Lithonia is home to several environmental resources, including unquarried granite outcrops. Residents enjoy both Lithonia City Park and its Stewart Amphitheater constructed using local granite. Most recently, the City added a pocket park downtown that not only provides additional greenspace but also celebrates Lithonia's unique history. Residents also enjoy the PATH trail, as well as the creek and pond near Bruce Street Park.





Main Street

Lithonia's historic, walkable Main Street offers a place for entrepreneurship to thrive – many of its small businesses are supported by residents on a regular basis. Residents enjoy exciting events downtown like the weekly Farmers' Market. Not far from Main Street, the Lithonia-Davidson library offers an opportunity for residents to read and connect. The City as a whole, and its downtown in particular, present opportunities for commercial and residential growth. Several past planning studies have highlighted the need to redevelop Lithonia Plaza, a mid-twentieth century urban renewal era shopping center, to better align with the downtown's historic grid network. However, the Plaza's current ownership continues to resist redevelopment.



NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES

Commercial & Residential Vacancy

The active CSX line bisects the city, posing a challenge to uniting and developing the Main Street area. Several vacant storefronts just across the tracks could be redeveloped and reincorporated into downtown. In addition to these unused storefronts, Lithonia still struggles with both commercial and residential vacancies and thus, code enforcement. Residential vacancy has decreased since from 16% to 11% since 2010, despite the addition of housing units. However, the City has not experienced housing market recovery from the recession compared to the rest of the region and code enforcement of vacant property remains a challenge. Residents have expressed concerns about crime resulting from these vacancies, as well as homeless camps within and adjacent to the city.





Bruce Street

In addition to Main Street, Bruce Street has emerged as a community focus. It is home to a number of community assets including the historic Bruce Street School, Dekalb County's first public school for African Americans, as well as two historic African American cemeteries. Residents expressed the need to highlight these important cultural resources with landmark signage. In addition to these historic sites, several community facilities are located on Bruce Street, including the future Lithonia Senior Center, the Lucious Sanders Recreation Center, the police station, KIP Academy and Learning Center, and the Bruce Street Park. Residents identified the Bruce Street Park as an asset, but also stressed that it requires improvements. Despite the concentration of these community facilities, MARTA's bus service area does not extend to Bruce Street. A visioning and redevelopment plan could better leverage the potential of this emerging city center.



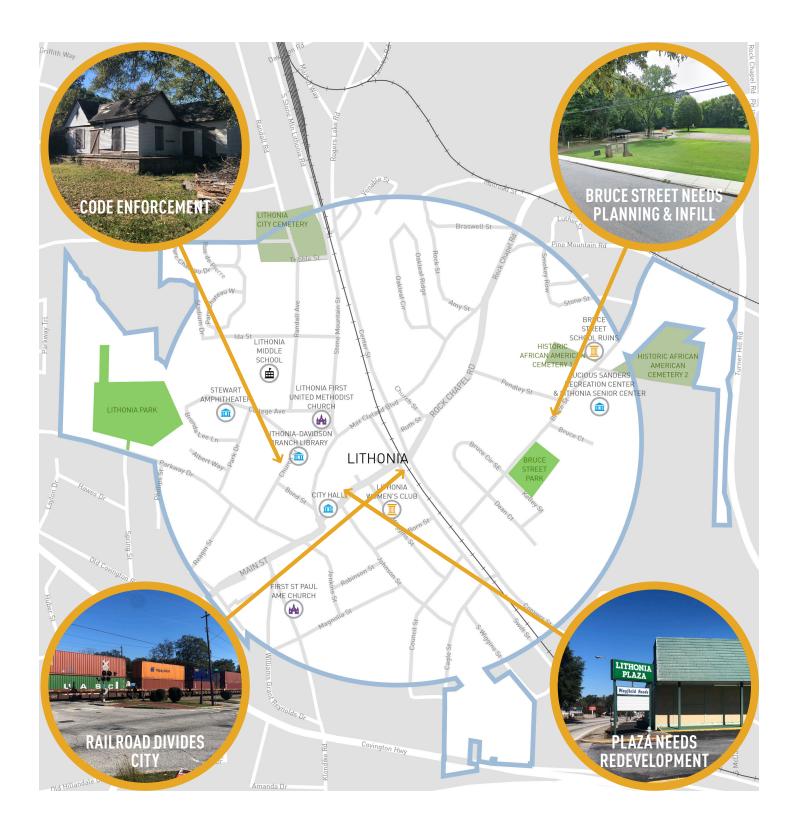
COMMUNITY ASSETS



COMMUNITY ASSETS



COMMUNITY CONCERNS

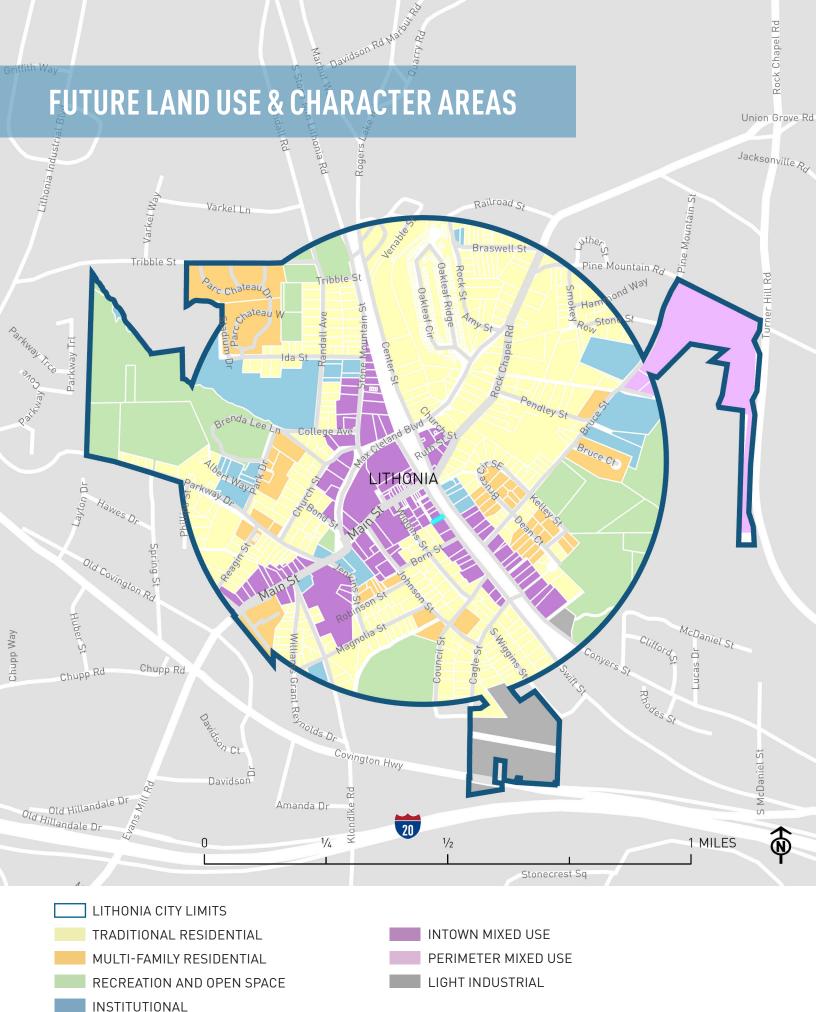


COMMUNITY CONCERNS





FUTURE LAND USE



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TRADITIONAL RESIDENTIAL



The Traditional Residential character area includes singlefamily residential neighborhoods with historic building elements and styles that are the foundation of Lithonia's character. While existing historic residential structures should be preserved and restored in a manner that is sensitive to the city's existing historic character, infill of smaller, detached and attached single-family residences with a similar architectural character on vacant and derelict property would provide additional opportunities for homeownership within the city. Lithonia's first pocket park was completed in 2019 along Wiggins Street, providing a model for the development of additional micro greenspace for the enjoyment of nearby residents. Code enforcement efforts, such as Lithonia Beautiful, and the resolution of heir property should continue to combat repercussions of neglect and abandonment.

MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL



The **Multi-Family Residential** character area includes several multi-family developments that serve the community. One-story brick duplexes owned by the Lithonia Housing Authority are scattered throughout the city. Three market-rate, multi-family developments exist within the city - Chelsea Place (previously Parc Chateau), Villas on Main, and Granite Crossing. Though there is a strong desire to encourage home ownership within the City, housing diversity and affordability should remain a priority.

Traditional Residential and Multi-Family Residential

Development Patterns

- Preserve existing single family homes and encourage restoration of historic residential structures while discouraging gated communities.
- Promote construction of new smaller, detached and attached single-family residences with compatible architectural character.
- Promote construction of new multi-family developments exhibiting high quality design elements compatible with existing single-family homes.
- ° Require rear-oriented off-street parking.
- Ensure installation of sidewalks to facilitate pedestrian activity and connectivity of sidewalk network to community amenities.
- ° Develop additional pocket parks.

Land Uses

- ° Detached and Attached Single-Family Residential Uses
- ° Multi-Family Residential Uses
- ° Recreational Uses

Implementation Strategies

- Develop plan for the removal and replacement of dilapidated residential structures along Center Street, Parkway Drive, and Bruce Street with smaller, single-family residences including an inventory of dilapidated structures and development parameters and partners.
- Reinforce neighborhood stability by encouraging homeownership and maintenance or upgrade of existing properties.
- Work with Lithonia Housing Authority and other partners to develop a plan for improvements to and/ or redevelopment of existing public housing units.
- Work with PATH Foundation to provide strong pedestrian and bicycle connections in neighborhoods to encourage walking to community facilities and amenities.

TRADITIONAL RESIDENTIAL



Recent completion of the Oakleaf subdivision, pictured above, placed over 100 detached, single-family houses on the market.





MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL





INTOWN MIXED USE

The **Intown Mixed Use** character area includes general retail, service commercial, office professional, and higherdensity residential, as well as some public and open space facilities. Some structures, particularly along Stone Mountain, Swift, and Center streets, are appropriate for adaptive reuse. To that end, Live, Love, Lithonia, a 2019 ARC Community Development Assistance Program project, provided recommendations for the establishment of a façade grant program which the DDA has begun to implement, including the development of an application and establishment of funds. Additional recommendations include the restoration of historic "ghost" signs, as well as the development of new public murals like the one along Conyers Street.

PERIMETER MIXED USE

The **Perimeter Mixed Use** character area has the potential for a new master-planned development on an existing 24-acre vacant site. This development may meet a specific need for Lithonia, such as accommodating a senior housing development near the new Lithonia Senior Center and Bruce Street Park. Though such a project has been in the planning phase for several years, the area is appropriate for a number of other mixed-use developments, such as a continuum-of-care facility mixing units for independent and assisted senior living, as well as a market-driven development that includes mixed-income residential units as well as space for commercial and professional uses.

LIGHT INDUSTRIAL

A **Light Industrial** character area includes low manufacturing, wholesale trade, and distribution facilities that do not generate the excessive nuisances associated with higher manufacturing. A 17-acre, undeveloped parcel north of Covington Highway, as well as several properties along Conyers Street, have the potential for light industrial development that is sensitive to the surrounding area. Development of these properties would place them once again on the tax rolls, as well as provide employment opportunities within the city.

Intown Mixed Use, Perimeter Mixed Use, and Light Industrial

Development Patterns

- Include a mix of commercial, professional, civic, residential, and recreational opportunities (Intown Mixed Use)
- Include higher-density, mixed-income housing options (Intown Mixed Use)
- Incorporate pedestrian-oriented walkable connections within and to the Traditional Residential character area (Intown Mixed Use and Perimeter Mixed Use)
- Incorporate landscaping and site design to soften views of buildings, parking lots, and loading docks (Light Industrial)
- ° Incorporate signage and lighting features
- ° Promote infill and adaptive reuse in targeted areas

Land Uses

- ° Residential Uses
- ° Commercial, Professional, and Civic Uses
- ° Light Industrial Uses
- ° Recreational Uses

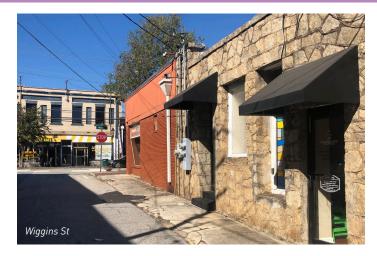
Implementation Strategies

- ° Continue redevelopment of, and reduce vacancies within, Lithonia Plaza.
- Preserve structures with historic significance and explore potential funding sources to encourage historic façade restorations and improvements of existing buildings by property owners.
- Promote infill development on vacant lots where appropriate while discouraging the construction of large retail facilities.
- Promote the creation of pocket parks and improve the curb appeal of the downtown gateways.

INTOWN MIXED USE



Granite Crossing, a new 75-unit apartment complex, now anchors the north side of Lithonia Plaza with a modern multi-family residential development. Though recent updates implemented by Wayfield are appreciated, further redevelopment of Lithonia Plaza is desired. Specialty food stores and restaurants are favored uses to backfill vacant storefronts. The City has discussed the development of a public outdoor plaza for dining and entertainment.





PERIMETER MIXED USE



LIGHT INDUSTRIAL



INSTITUTIONAL



The **Institutional** character area includes public use facilities such as schools and churches. With the construction of the new Lithonia Senior Center nearby – a groundbreaking for which was held August 2020 – the Bruce Street School ruins are primed for redevelopment. Though the building's outer walls of granite remain intact, the interior and roof have deteriorated. Planning for the stabilization and interpretation of the ruins is underway with a strong desire to preserve it as a cultural landmark.

RECREATION & OPEN SPACE



The Recreation and Open Space character area includes existing parks, as well as undeveloped areas ideal for the expansion of existing recreational facilities or to be preserved as natural open space. The Lithonia Park visioning project - Park Pride - and capital improvement plan were completed in 2019 calling for construction of the new Lucious Sanders Recreation Center in Lithonia Park. This relocation of the recreation center will allow for the Bruce Street Park and adjacent land to the southeast to develop as a more senior-centric area with passive recreation and open space to accompany the new senior center and future senior housing. The preservation and commemoration of the City's two historic African American cemeteries along Bruce Street is included in a larger wish to see the Bruce Street-area celebrated as a unique cultural asset.

Institutional and Recreation and Open Space

Development Patterns

- ° Maintain historic properties to prevent further deterioration and protect from demolition
- Preserve available open space, including existing parks and cemeteries, through private owner dedication, an open space reservation requirement for new developments, or a transfer of development rights program
- ° Utilize facade and conservation easements to protect community character
- ° Link to other community facilities and amenities

Land Uses

- ° Civic Uses
- ° Recreational Uses

Implementation Strategies

- Develop a plan to preserve existing undeveloped areas – such as the area southeast of Bruce Street Park – for natural open space.
- [°] Work with DeKalb County and other partners to upgrade park facilities, such as benches, bike racks, and active recreational components.
- ° Work with Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance, PATH Foundation, DeKalb County and other entities to develop connections to the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area.

INSTITUTIONAL





RECREATION & OPEN SPACE





CHAPTER 5

COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM

REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2015-2020

Key Terminology

Items that are **COMPLETED** have been finished within the 5-year reporting period prior to this comprehensive plan update.

Items that are **UNDERWAY** have been initiated or had partial progress as of the end of the 5-year reporting period prior to this comprehensive plan update. They have been carried over into the new 5-year reporting period for this comprehensive plan update. Items that are **POSTPONED** are still priorities for the community and have been carried over into the new 5-year reporting period for this comprehensive plan update.

Items that are **CANCELLED** will not be carried over into the new 5-year reporting period for this comprehensive plan update. Generally, these are items that are broad policy statements or routine city operations, and they have been identified appropriately as such.

| Project | Status | Notes |
|--|-----------|--|
| Economic Development | | |
| 1. Partner with agencies to promote job training opportunities. | COMPLETE | Partnerships with WorkSource DeKalb and Board of Education Work-Based Learning programs ongoing. |
| 2. Prepare a market and feasibility study of development opportunities. | POSTPONED | See CWP Project #ED.1. |
| 3. Develop a business retention, recruitment, and marketing plan. | UNDERWAY | See CWP Project #ED.2. |
| Community Development | | |
| 1. Identify funding sources to implementation of the sidewalk/crosswalks plan. | COMPLETE | LMIG and SPLOST funds identified. |
| 2. Undertake a review of the Lithonia Zoning Ordinance, and subsequently update, to align with the Comprehensive Plan Update. | CANCELED | Incorporated as a routine operation. |
| 3. Adopt and implement Proposed Design Guidelines for Lithonia, Georgia developed by Georgia State University. | UNDERWAY | Proposed Design Guidelines for Lithonia, Georgia and historic preservation ordinance adopted by Council. CWP Project #CD.1. |
| 4. Develop design standards for gateway signage. | UNDERWAY | See CWP Project #CD.2. |
| 5. Research funding opportunities to restore and redevelop the Bruce Street School and Lithonia Plaza. | UNDERWAY | Redevelopment of City-owned portion of Lithonia Plaza complete & partnerships with DeKalb County & AMHAAA established for redevelopment of Bruce Street School ruins. See CWP Project #CD.3 & #CD.4. |
| 6. Support Downtown Development Authority in promoting diversity of businesses, e.g. bookstore, internet café, art gallery, antique shops, etc. | UNDERWAY | Survey of existing businesses complete. See CWP Project #CD.5. |
| 7. Develop and implement a plan of action to address code violations. | UNDERWAY | Code enforcement efforts expanded. See CWP #CD.6. |
| 8. Develop a plan to increase the connectivity of sidewalk network in areas near the middle school, recreation centers, city parks, and shopping district. | UNDERWAY | LMIG and SPLOST funds identified. See CWP Project #CD.7. |



- ° CWP = Community Work Plan
- ° ED = Economic Development
- ° CD = Community Development
- ° AMHAA = Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance

REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2015-2020

| Project | Status | Notes |
|---|-----------|---|
| Community Development (Continued from Previous Page) | | |
| 9. Develop an inventory of the city's natural (and historic) resources along with an educational plan. | POSTPONED | See CWP Project #CD.8. |
| 10. Develop strategies for new housing development. | COMPLETED | GICH program completed and Granite Crossing constructed. |
| 11. Develop a plan to promote heritage tourism. | POSTPONED | See CWP Project #CD.9. |
| 12. Expand the greenway trail system within the city to provide greater connectivity to the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Preserve Area. | UNDERWAY | Partnerships with AMHAA and PATH established to connect PATH to Main and Johnson street. See CWP Project #CD.10. |
| 13. Adopt ordinances to promote and protect natural and historic resources. | UNDERWAY | Historic preservation ordinance adopted by Council. See CWP Project #CD.11 |
| Partnerships | | |
| 1. Establish partnership with CSX railroad to improve circulation options on Main Street. | COMPLETE | |
| 2. Coordinate with DeKalb County the provision of services through a new Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) agreement and intergovernmental agreements. | COMPLETE | |
| 3. Work with partners to establish community gardens and farmers market. | COMPLETE | Lithonia Farmers Market established. Partnerships with community gardens at Stoneview Elementary School and Lucious Sanders Recreation Center ongoing. |
| Work with management of supermarket to improve quality of food choices, pricing, and appearance of facility. | UNDERWAY | See CWP Project #P.1. |
| 5. Work with Georgia Department of Transportation and other agencies to improve signage on Interstate 20, Highway 124, and other major roadways. | UNDERWAY | See CWP Project #P.2. |
| 6. Partner with Lithonia Housing Authority to explore new housing opportunities and redevelopment of existing housing stock. | UNDERWAY | See CWP Project #P.3. |
| Civic Participation | | |
| 1. Develop inventory of services for seniors and youth. | UNDERWAY | See CWP Project #CP.1. |
| 2. Develop a plan to improve communication with citizens, particularly through the use of social media or other digital/online resources. | UNDERWAY | See CWP Project #CP.2. |
| 3. Support expansion of neighborhood watches safety initiatives. | UNDERWAY | See CWP Project #CP.3. |
| 4. Establish a Citizen Academy and Youth Leadership Program. | UNDERWAY | See CWP Project #CP.4. |



- ° CWP = Community Work Plan
- ° CD = Community Development
- ° P = Partnerships

- ° CP = Civic Participation
- ° AMHAA = Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance

COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM 2021-2025

| # | Project | Asset/ Concern | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Responsibility | Funding & Cost |
|-------|---|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------------|---|
| Econo | mic Development | | | | | | | | |
| ED.1 | Develop a downtown redevelopment plan. | Main Street (A) | | Х | Х | | | City; Consultant | Costs to be determined based upon project needs |
| ED.2 | Implement a façade grant program as detailed in Live Love Lithonia. | Main Street (A) | Х | | | | | DDA; City | Staff/Volunteer Time; Other costs to be determined based upon project needs |
| Comm | Community Development | | | | | | | | |
| CD.1 | Establish Historic Preservation Commission. | Main Street (A) | Х | | | | | City | Staff Time |
| CD.2 | Develop gateway signage design standards based on signs erected by AMHAA. | Main Street (A) | Х | | | | | City; AMHAA | Staff Time |
| CD.3 | Advocate for redevelopment of the Lithonia Plaza through a partnership with the owner. | Lithonia Plaza (C) | | | Х | Х | | DDA; City | Staff Time |
| CD.4 | Preserve and interpret the Bruce Street School ruins with DeKalb County and AMHAA. | Bruce Street (A/C) | Х | Х | Х | | | County; AMHAA; City | Staff Time |
| CD.5 | Target economic development policies and programs to locate a diversity of businesses, e.g. bookstore, art gallery, antique shops, etc. | Main Street (A) | Х | Х | Х | | | DDA; City | Staff and Volunteer Time |
| CD.6 | Increase code enforcement requirements in zoning ordinance. | Code Enforcement (C) | Х | | | | | City | Staff Time |
| CD.7 | Develop sidewalk network connectivity plan near mid- dle school, rec. centers, parks, & shopping district. | LMS/Historic Gran- ite Stadium (A) | | Х | Х | | | City; County | Costs to be determined based upon project needs |
| CD.8 | Develop an inventory of the city's natural and historic resources along with an educational plan. | Bruce Street (A/C) | | | | Х | Х | City | Staff Time; Other costs to be determined if outside source utilized |
| CD.9 | Develop a plan to promote heritage tourism. | Landmark Signage (C) | Х | Х | | | | City; County | Staff Time |
| CD.10 | Expand the greenway trail system to Main & Johnson streets to provide greater connectivity to the AMHAA | Main Street (A) | Х | Х | Х | | | PATH; City; County | Staff Time |
| CD.11 | Adopt ordinance to promote and protect natural resources. | Lithonia Park (A) | | | | Х | | City | Staff Time |



- ° AMHAA = Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance
- ° DDA = Downtown Development Authority

° LMS = Lithonia Middle School

° A = Asset ° C = Concern

COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM 2021-2025

| # | Project | Asset/ Concern | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Responsibility | Funding & Cost |
|-------|--|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Partn | Partnerships | | | | | | | | |
| P.1 | Work with supermarket management to improve qual- ity of food choices, pricing, & appearance of facility. | Lithonia Plaza (C) | | Х | | | | City | Staff Time |
| P.2 | Work with GDOT to install historic district signs. | Landmark Signage (C) | Х | | | | | City; GDOT | Staff Time |
| P.3 | Identify new housing opportunities and potential redevelopment opportunities with LHA. | Mixed Use Redevelopment (A) | | | | | | City; LHA | Staff Time |
| P.4 | Explore expansion of service & construction of transit shelters with MARTA for Senior Center & Bruce St. | MARTA (C) | Х | Х | | | | City; MARTA | Staff Time |
| Civic | Participation | | | | | | | | |
| CP.1 | Develop inventory of services for seniors and youth. | Bruce Street Park (C) | | | | Х | Х | City; County | Staff and Volunteer Time |
| CP.2 | Develop plan to improve communication w/ citizens, particularly through social media/online platforms. | Lithonia-Davidson Library (A) | Х | | | | | City; DDA | Staff and Volunteer Time |
| CP.3 | Expand neighborhood watch initiatives. | Bruce Street (A/C) | Х | | | | | City | Staff Time |
| CP.4 | Establish a Citizen Academy and Youth Leadership Program. | Lucious Sanders Rec. Center (A) | | | | Х | | City | Staff Time |



 $^{\circ}$ GDOT = Georgia Department of Transportation

- ° LHA = Lithonia Housing Authority
- ° DDA = Downtown Development Authority
- ° A = Asset ° C = Concern



APPENDIX





A PART

Das

FIRST REQUIRED PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PAGE 22

220-437863 7/16,7/23,7/30,8/6 NOTICE

++2020-0929++ TO: All Interested Parties: EDDIE DONERLSON, III. and STEPHANIE ROCHELL HAYES-JOHNSON have peti-tioned to be appointed Co-Administrators of the estate of CHERYL JEANEAN DON-ERLSON deceased, of said County. The Petitioners have also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-

261. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be pranted All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before 08/10/2020.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All pleadings/objections must be signed under oath before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following ad-dress/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted

without a hearing. Bedelia C Hargrove Judge of the Probate Court

Kim Guyton, Clerk of the Pro-bate Court 556 N. McDonough St., Rm. 1100 Decatur, Georgia 30030

404-371-2601

Dismiss Administrator

240-437864 7/16 NOTICE

NOTICE ++2019-2347++ PROBATE COURT OF DEKALB COUNTY RE: PETITION of PALMER JOHN PENNY for DIS-CHARGE as ADMINISTRAT-OR OF THE ESTATE OF EUZABETH ANNE DENNY ELIZABETH ANNE PENNY, DECEASED TO: All Interested Parties

This is to notify you to file ob-jection, if there is any, to the above referenced petition, in this Court on or before this

07/27/2020 BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth grounds of any such objections. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the follow-ing address/telephone number for the required amount of fil-ing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be sched-uled at a later date. If no objec-tions are filed, the petition may

be granted without a hearing. Bedelia C Hargrove Judge of the Probate Court

Kim Guyton, Clerk of the Probate Court 556 N. McDonough St., Rm. 1100 Decatur, Georgia 30030 404-371-2601

THE CHAMPION LEGAL SECTION, THURSDAY, JULY 16 - 22, 2020

Miscellaneous

Dismiss Executor

250-437796 7/9 /16 7/23 7/30

NOTICE ++2019-0706++

PROBATE COURT OF DEKALB COUNTY

RE: PETITION of SUNTRUST

BANK for DISCHARGE as EX-

ECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF

NANCY JEFFREYS WOODALL, DECEASED

This is to notify you to file ob-jection, if there is any, to the above referenced petition, in this Court on or before

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All

objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth

grounds of any such objections. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary pub-

lic or before a probate court

clerk, and filing fees must be

tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indi-

tions are filed, the petition may

Bedelia C Hargrove

Judge of the Probate Court

Kim Guyton, Clerk of the Pro-

556 N. McDonough St., Rm.

Dismiss Guardian

Decatur, Georgia 30030 404-371-2601

bate Court

1100

be granted without a hearing.

TO: All Interested Parties

08/03/2020.

290-437802 7/9 7/16 7/23 7/30 IN RE: Estate of ROSA BANK Estate No. ++2020-0863++ Petition by Personal Representative for Waiver of Bond and Grant of

Certain Powers NOTICE

GEORGIA, DEKALB COUNTY PROBATE COURT ESTELLE RAE BANK has petitioned for waiver of bond and

for the grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted. All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before 8/3/2020. BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: AI

pleadings/objections must be signed under oath before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following ad-dress/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hear-ing will be scheduled at a later date If no objections are filed the petition may be granted

without a hearing Bedelia C Hargrove Judge of the Probate Court

Kim Guyton, Clerk of the Pro-bate Court 556 N. McDonough St., Rm.

Will

300-436954 6/25,7/2,7/9,7/16

NOTICE NOTICE ++2020-0810++ RE: PETITION OF SHERRY E WALLIS TO PROBATE IN SOLEMN FORM THE WILL OF

GRACE HILL PUGH, DE-CEASED, UPON WHICH AN ORDER OR SERVICE WAS

GRANTED BY THIS COURT TO: Tim Hill, Ronald Lee Rose

TO: Tim Hill, Ronald Lee Rose-berry, Betty Roseberry, Ricky Roseberry, Cindy Ann Hill, Gail Hill, Tammy Hill, Connie Hill, Eddie Hill, Ronny Hill This is to notify you to file ob-jection, if there is any, to the Petition to Probate Will in Sol-emn Form, in this Court on or before July 20 2020

before July 20, 2020. BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All

objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the

grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn

to before a notary public or be-

fore a Probate Court Clerk, and filing fees must be tendered

with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indi-gent party. Contact Probate

Court personnel for the re-quired amount of filing fees. If

any objections are filed, a hear-

ing will be scheduled at a later

date. If no objections are filed

the Petition may be granted

without a hearing. Bedelia C Hargrove Judge of the Probate Court Doris F. Scott, Clerk of the Pro-

bate Court 556 N. McDonough St., Rm.

Decatur, Georgia 30030

1100

404-371-2601

1100 Decatur, Georgia 30030 404-371-2601

260-437865 7/16 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DEKALB COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF Barbara Jean Darmon. DECEASED ESTATE NO. ++2017-1900++

NOTICE [For Discharge from Office and

all Liability] IN RE: Petition for Discharge of Personal Representative

TO: Demerritts Jefferson Jones & All Interested Parties This is to notify you who are required to be served personally, to file objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced Peti-tion, in this Court on or before the tenth (10th) day after the date you are personally served

or sign the return receipt BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or be-fore a Probate Court Clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indi gent party. Contact Probate Court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the Petition may be granted

without a hearing. Bedelia C Hargrove Judge of the Probate Court

Kimberly Curry, Clerk of the Probate Court 556 North McDonough Street, Room 1100 Decatur Georgia 30030 404-371-2601

Year's Support 310-436955 6/25 7/2 7/9 7/16

NOTICE ++2020-0792++ TO: All Interested Parties The Petition of AMELIA PETTWAY SPRINGER, for a year's support from the estate of HERSCHEL SPRINGER

Deceased, for Decedent's Sur-viving Spouse and minor child, having been duly filed, all inter-ested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before JULY 20, 2020, why said Petition should not be granted. All objections to the Petition

must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All pleadings/objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a Probate Court Clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact Probate Court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed

the Petition may be granted without a hearing. Bedelia C Hargrove Judge of the Probate Court

By: Morgan Johnson, Clerk of the Probate Court 556 N. McDonough St., Rm.

1100 Decatur, Georgia 30030 404-371-2601

310-437803 7/9,7/16,7/23.7/30 NOTICE

++2020-0869++ TO: All Interested Parties The Petition of ROBERT E HARGROVE, for a year's sup-port from the estate of DORIS J HARGROVE, Deceased, for Decedent's Surviving Spouse and minor child, having been duly filed, all interested per-sons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have on or before **AUGUST 3, 2020** why said Petition should not be

granted. All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objec-tions, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All pleadings/objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a Probate Court Clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact Probate Court personnel for the re-quired amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed the Petition may be granted

without a hearing. Bedelia C Hargrove Judge of the Probate Court By Morgan Johnson, Clerk of the Probate Court 556 N. McDonough St., Rm 1100

Decatur, Georgia 30030 404-371-2601

310-437866 7/16,7/23,7/30,8/6 NOTICE

++2020-0340++

TO: All Interested Parties The Petition of DOROTHY LOUISE WRIGHT SMITH, for a r's support from the estate of WILLIAM PATRICK SMITH, III., Deceased, for Decedent's Surviving Spouse and minor child, having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before AU-GUST 10, 2020 , why said Petition should not be granted. All objections to the Petition

must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objec-tions, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All plead-ings/objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a Probate Court Clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact Probate Court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hear-ing will be **scheduled at a later** date. If no objections are filed the Petition may be granted without a hearing.

Bedelia C Hargrove Judge of the Probate Court

Morgan Johnson, Clerk of the Probate Court 556 N. McDonough St., Rm. 1100 Decatur, Georgia 30030 404-371-2601

310-437867 7/16,7/23,7/30,8/6 NOTICE ++2020-0913++ TO: All Interested Parties

The Petition of WILLIAM GREGORY HAYES, for a vear's support from the estate of CYNTHIA EHRHART HAYES, Deceased, for Decedent's Surviving Spouse and minor child, having been duly filed, all interested persons are hied, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before **AUGUST 10, 2020**, why said Petition should not be granted. All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such object tions and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All pleadings/objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a Probate Court Clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact Probate Court personnel for the re-quired amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hear-ing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed the Petition may be granted without a hearing.

Bedelia C Hargrove Judge of the Probate Court

Morgan Johnson, Clerk of the Probate Court 556 N. McDonough St., Rm. 1100 Decatur, Georgia 30030 404-371-2601

Public Hearing

320-437804 7/9 7/16 Notice of Public Hearing

The Planning and Zoning Board of the City of Avondale Estates will conduct a meeting on ++Monday, July 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.++ to make a Zoning District recommendation to the City of Avondale Estates Board of Mayor and Commissioners for the area known as Berkeley Village which is under review for annexation. This hearing will be held via Zoom webinar. Please use one of the follow-

ing to join the webinar. Online: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8436 4083392

For audio only: 312.626.6799 Webinar ID: 843 6408 3392 Ken Morris Planner & Permit Services Co-

ordinator

320-437805 7/9,7/16

Notice of Public Hearing The Board of Appeals of the City of Avondale Estates will conduct a hearing on ++Tues-day, July 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.++ to consider an applica-tion from Jesse Brock Nix for a variance from the City's zoning ordinance pertaining to front vard setback requirements for the property located at 3409 Covington Highway. This hearing will be held via Zoom we-binar. Please use one of the following to join the webinar Online

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8315 0485236 By phone (audio only): 301.715.8592 Webinar ID: 831 5048 5236

Ken Morris Planner & Permit Services

Coordinator

320-437868 7/16 City of Lithonia NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The City of Lithonia Mayor & Council will hold the initial public hearing regarding the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update virtually at City Hall, 6920 Main Street, Lithonia 30058 on ++August 3, 2020 at 5:30

Dial-in number (701) 802-5163 Access Code: 8453252 The purpose of this hearing is

to brief the community on the process to be used to develop the plan, opportunities for public participation in development of the plan, and to obtain input on the proposed planning pro-

cess. All interested should attend Questions should be directed to the City Clerk by calling (770) 482-8136 OR cityclerk@lithoniacity.org

Public Notice

330-437078 7/2,7/9,7/16,7/23 Public Notice Assumed Name CURTIS Registered at the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State Work Item# 1164444300021 Original File# 1164444300021 Filed: 06/23/2020

Nameholder: Washington Curtis Larmont Active/ in Good

Standing ++Assumed Name CURTIS WASHINGTON++

330-437079 7/2,7/9,7/16,7/23

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is given that on March 31, 2020, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners ap-proved its willingness to enter into a ++Real property ex-change for property located on the north side of Pleasant Hill Way++ approximately 600 yards to the west of the intersection of Pleasant Hill Road and Morris Lake Drive in exchange for a large tract along Lyons Road to the southwest of the intersection of Lyons Road and Lyons Drive. Pursuant to the proposed exchange (1) DeKalb County will convey ap-proximately 8.548 acres of vacant real property (being tax parcel 16-252-2-2) to D.R. Hor-ton, Inc., a Delaware corporation; and (2) D.R. Horton, Inc. will convey approximately 52.967 acres of real property (including tax parcels 16-048-01-002, and 16-048-01-001, and a portion of tax parcel 16-047-03-014) to DeKalb County for use as a greenspace buffer. Because of the disparate value of the two tracts, as determined by independent appraisal, DeKalb County will also pay D.R. Horton additional consideration in cash. Please contact Zachary L. Williams, Executive Assistant and Chief Operating Officer for DeKalb County, 1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur, GA 30030.

330-437080 7/2,7/9,7/16,7/23 PUBLIC NOTICE

The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business. Tims, Ryshawn Ry-meer, living at 3129 Clifton Springs Court, Decatur, Georgia, is the General Executor/UItimate Beneficial Owner Name PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSI-NESS: 3129 CLIFTON SPRINGS COURT, DECATUR, GA 30034, in the following Cer-tificate of Assumed Name, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333 to wit; RYSHAWN RYMEER TIMS filed on 5/22/2020 Origin-al File Number/Active and in G o o d S t a n d i n g 1160540200023; <u>RYSHAWN</u> TIMS filed on 5/22/2020 Origin-L File Number/Active and in al File Number/Active and in Good Standing 1160541400028; **RYSHAWN** R.TIMS filed on 5/22/2020 Ori-ginal File Number/Active and in G o o d S t a n d i n g 1160542700025; RYSHAWN R TIMS filed on 5/22/2020 Origin-TIMS filed on 5/22/2020 Origin-al File Number/Active and in g 160543100024; RAVSHAWN RYMEER TIMS; filed on 5/22/2020 Original File Num-ber/Active and in Good Stand-ing 1160542400029; NAME-HOLDER(S): c/o 3129 Clifton Springs Court, Decatur, Geor-gia, Republic without the United States [30034] united States of States [30034] united States of America, and the nature of the said business is commerce ++Assumed Name/ RY-SHAWN RYMEER TIMS++

gent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone numbe for the required amount of fil-ing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be sched-uled at a later date. If no objec-

FIRST REQUIRED PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

AMELIA INMAN, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE WILLIAM "RIC" DODD DIANE W. HOWARD VANNERIAH WYNN DAROLD P. HONORE', JR.



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

LATHAYDRA SANDS, CITY ADMINISTRATOR DARREN NEWTON, INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE QUINTON MONSON, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR ROBINETTE BLOUNT, CITY CLERK

SHAMEKA S. REYNOLDS, MAYOR CITY OF LITHONIA

Monday, August 3, 2020 @ 5:30 PM CITY COUNCIL <u>VIRTUAL MEETING</u>

Dial-in number (US): (701) 802-5163 Access code: 8453252

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Moment of Silence
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes
 - a. July 20, 2020 City Council Work Session Virtual Meeting @ 5:30 PM
 - b. July 27, 2020 Special Called Chief of Police Selection Process Virtual Meeting @ 11:30 AM
- V. Public Comments (Limit 2-minutes per person)

VI. Public Hearing for 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update

- a. Discussion on the process to be used to develop the plan
- b. Public Discussion

VII. Presentation (Limit 8 minutes per person)

- a. Ms. Chinara Aklilu; LifeLink of Georgia, National Minority Donor Awareness Month
- b. Mayor Shameka S. Reynolds; Reading of LifeLink Proclamation
- c. Park Pride Report: President Allen

VIII. Action Items

- a. Black Lives Matter Initiative
- b. Fees for landscape maintenance of abandoned residential lots

IX. Other Business

- a. Ms. Dawn Massey; Requesting amendment of the event ordinance to exempt historical landmarks and cultural assets, The Women's Club and The Camellia House
- b. Alcohol Ordinance (47 pages)
- c. "Lithonia Beautiful" / Code Enforcement
- d. Masonic Lodge
- e. Mayors Report: COVID-19 Update, Council Member District Update
- X. Executive Session (if needed)
- XI. Adjournment

POST CARD SURVEY - FRONT SIDE

CITY OF LITHONIA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Communities shape and guide growth and development through planning. Please take a moment to answer the questions below - your input will guide Lithonia's 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update!

What do you think are Lithonia's 3 strongest assets?

What do you think are 3 challenges facing Lithonia?

What are some of Lithonia's significant cultural/historic/architectural resources? Are any in danger of being lost?

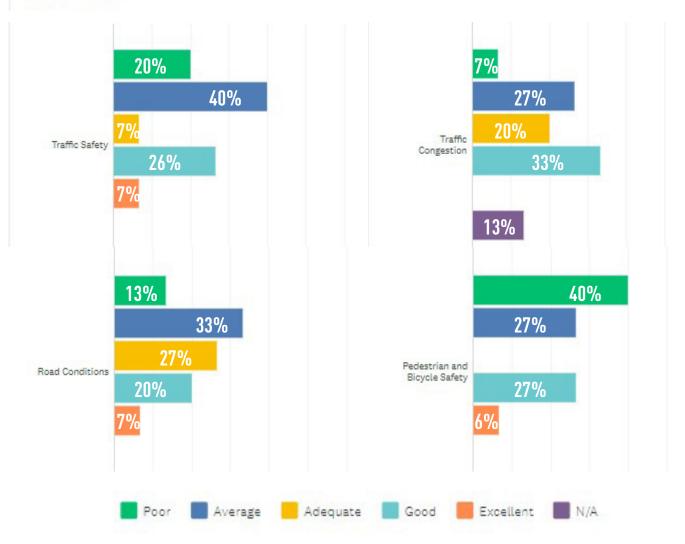
What are some of Lithonia's significant natural/environmental resources? Are any in danger of being lost?

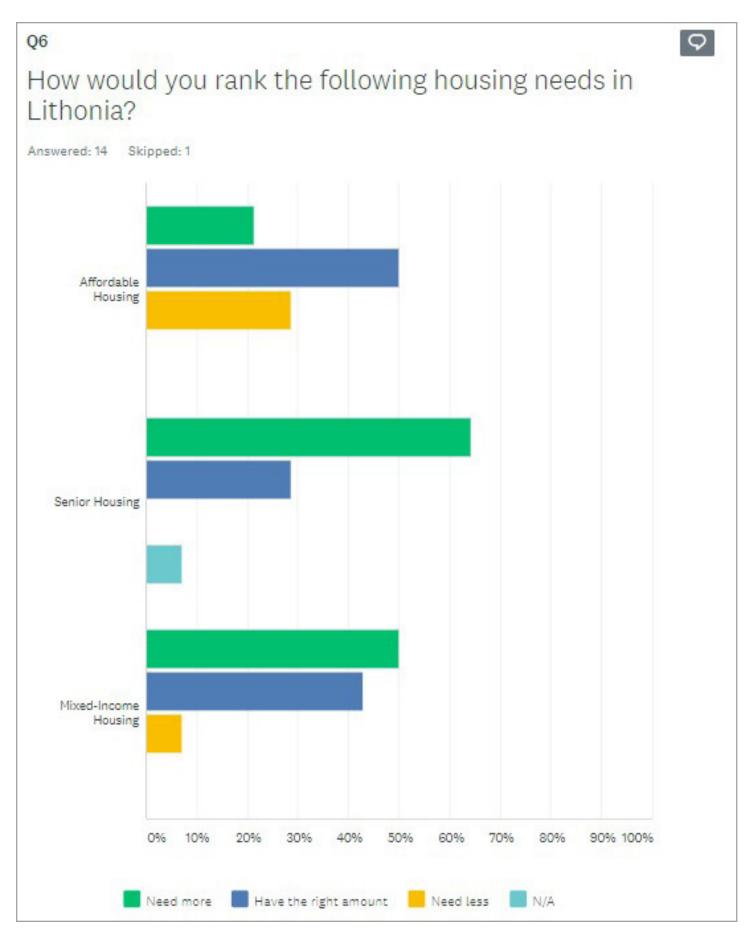
POST CARD SURVEY - BACK SIDE

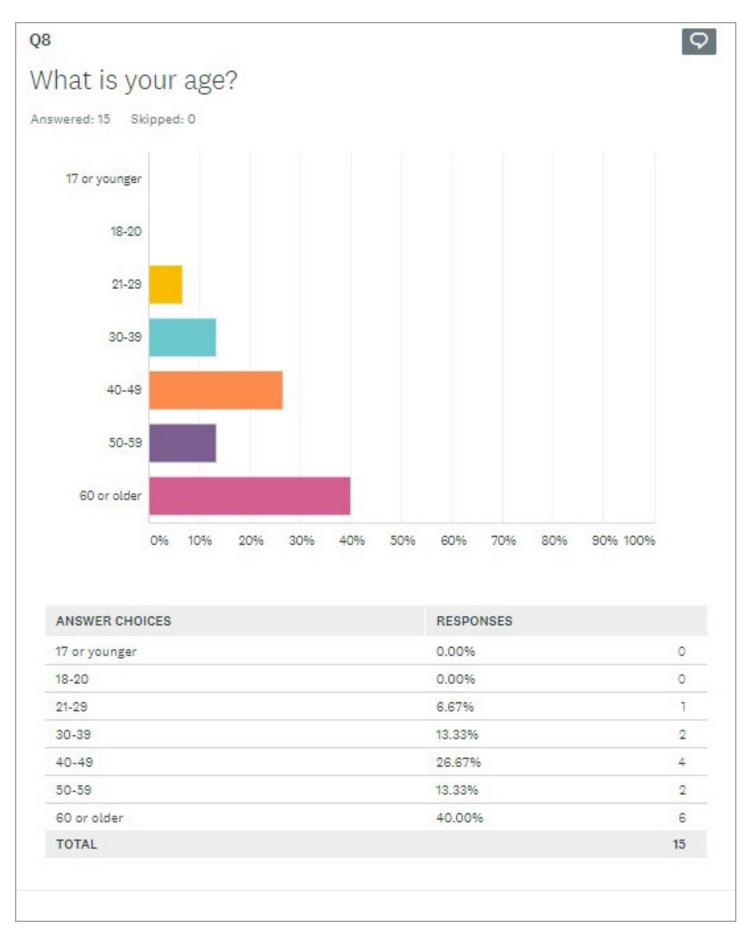
| | Poor | Average | Adequate | Go | od | Excellent | N/A |
|--|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Traffic Safety | 0 | 0 | 0 | C | \mathbf{D} | 0 | 0 |
| Traffic Congestion | 0 | 0 | 0 | C | $\mathbf{\mathcal{D}}$ | 0 | 0 |
| Road Conditions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | $\mathbf{)}$ | 0 | 0 0 |
| Bike/Ped Safety | 0 | 0 | 0 | C | $\mathbf{)}$ | 0 | |
| low would you rank the follo | wing housing | needs? | | | | | |
| | Need more | Have t | he right amount | | Need less | | N/A |
| Affordable Housing | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 |
| Senior Housing | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 |
| Mixed-Income Housing | 0 | | 0 | | | 0 | |
| What kind of improvements : | vould you like | to see downtow | ו? | | | | |
| Vhat kind of improvements v | | | | | | | |
| | ≤ 17 | 18-20 | 21-29 | 30-39 | 40-49 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 60+ |
| Vhat kind of improvements v Vhat is your age? | ≤ 17 O | 18-20 O | 21-29 O | 30-39 O | 40-49 O | 0 | 60+ O |
| | 0 | | ~ | ~ | 0 | 0 | 60+ O |
| Vhat is your age? | O ify? | | 0 | ~ | 0 | 0 | 60+ O |

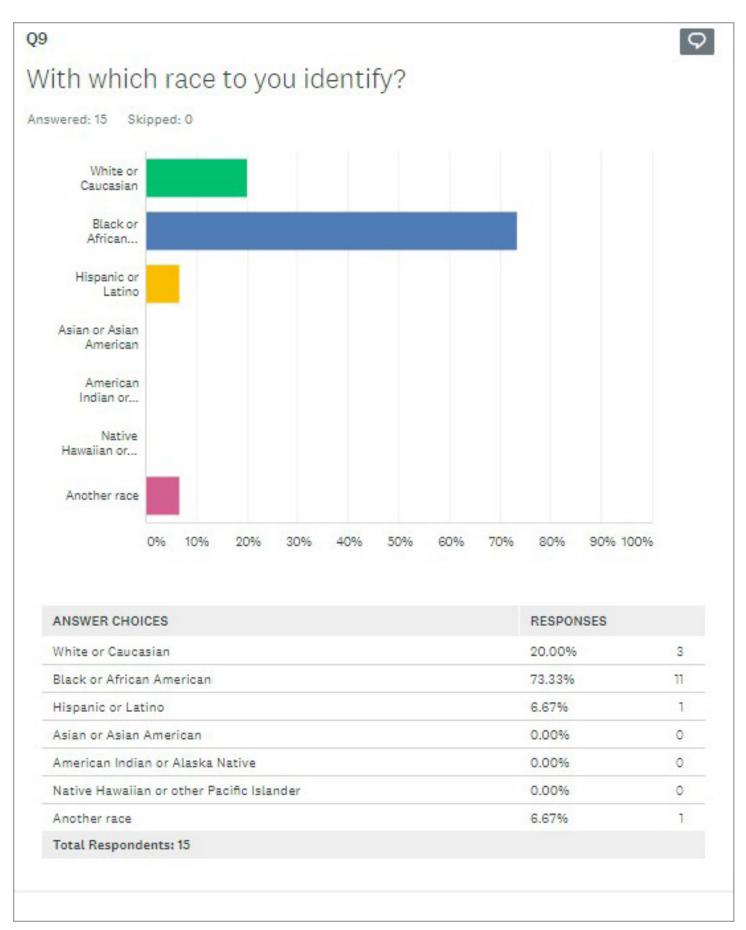
| Q1. 3 STRONGEST ASSETS | MENTIONS | Q3. 3 SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL RESOURCES | MENTIONS |
|--|----------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| friendly people | 2 | Bruce St School | 4 |
| cultural resources | 1 | Historic Downtown | 4 |
| cool location proximity to Atlanta | 4 | City Park/Ampitheater | 3 |
| strong downtown | 5 | Granite | 2 |
| quaint, small-town feel | 6 | Historic Architecture | 2 |
| close-knit community | 3 | Masonic Hall | 1 |
| Walkability | 2 | Football Stadium | 1 |
| Business | 4 | Center St Buildings | 2 |
| Park | 2 | Arabia Mountain | 1 |
| African american culture, culture of empowerment | 3 | African American Cemetary | 3 |
| Potential for growth | 3 | Women's Club | 2 |
| History | 4 | | |
| Exciting events | 1 | | |
| Farmers Market | 1 | | |
| Police department | 1 | | |
| Public works | 1 | | |
| | | | |
| Q2. 3 PRIMARY CHALLENGES | MENTIONS | Q4. SIGNIFICANT NATURAL RESOURCES | MENTIONS |
| Walkabillity | 1 | City Park | 5 |
| Commercial vacancies | 5 | Pocket Parks | 1 |
| Residential blight | 2 | PATH | 1 |
| Aging population | 1 | Granite outcrops | 2 |
| Chain businesses | 1 | Bruce St Park | 3 |
| Disconnected residents | 1 | Creeks | 1 |
| Limited annexation opportunities | 2 | | |
| Lack of grocery store options | 1 | | |
| Placemaking | 1 | Q7. DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS | MENTIONS |
| Crime | 1 | PATH to mainstreet | 1 |
| Lack of redevelopment | 5 | historic preservation standards | 2 |
| Lack of energy/drive/vision | 4 | Outdoor events | 3 |
| Lack of Engagement | 3 | Small business development | 5 |
| No design standards | 1 | Mixed use | 2 |
| City Council | 1 | Outdoor seating | 1 |
| Finances | 3 | Update plaza | 1 |
| Coronavirus | 1 | Façade updates | 4 |
| Government collaboration | 1 | Placemaking | 1 |
| Planning | 1 | Lighting | 1 |
| Lack of small business development | 2 | | |
| | | | |

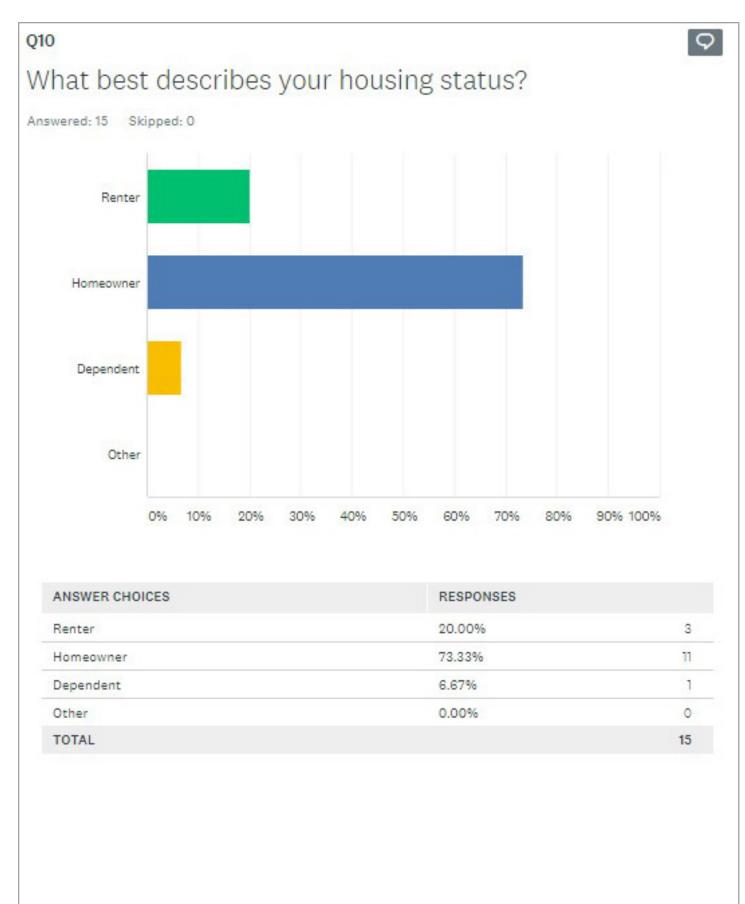












Lithonia News

August, 2020 Volume 6, Issue 8 6920 Main Street, Lithonia GA 770-482-8136 http://www.cityoflithoniaga.org STAY HOME! STAY SAFE!!!

WHEN IN DEKALB COUNTY, INDIVIDUALS OVER AGE EIGHT ARE NOW REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK OR OTHER FACE COVERING OVER THE NOSE AND MOUTH WHEN THEY ARE IN PUBLIC PLACES.

FREE FOOD BASKETS

TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS 9:00 AM - NOON NEW LIFE CHURCH 3592 FLAT SHOALS DECATUR, GA 30035



CAN YOU SPARE A FEW MOMENTS TO TAKE OUR SURVEY?

CITY OF LITHONIA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Paper copies are available at City Hall

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8DTKDFK

NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK 2020

August 2 - 8, 2020

JOIN US AT THE LITHONIA MARKET ON MAIN SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH 12:00 – 4:00 PM 6980 MAIN STREET



Lithonia News

September, 2020 Volume 6, Issue 9 6920 Main Street, Lithonia GA 770-482-8136 http://www.cityoflithoniaga.org









EXCITING TIME FOR LITHONIA

Volunteers Paint Our Main Street Asserting That Black Lives Matter!

Dignitaries Break Ground for New Bruce Street Senior Center!

More on Page 3!



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Lithonia News

November, 2020 Volume 6, Issue 11 6920 Main Street, Lithonia GA 770-482-8136 http://www.cityoflithoniaga.org

KEY ELECTION DATES

October 5 – Registration Deadline October 12 – Early Voting Begins November 3 – Election Day

WELCOME TO LITHONIA CHIEF POLLARD!



Lithonia's new Chief of Police, Nathan Pollard, graduated from Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications, received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Columbus State University, and is currently a Criminal Justice PhD Candidate with Walden University. He has completed a wide range of specialty training and has received numerous awards during his years of service.

Chief Pollard comes to Lithonia with 30 years of experiences at the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, Clark Atlanta's Department of Public Safety, and the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. He brings a history in Leadership, Budgeting, Criminal Investigations, Fraud Investigation, Defensive Tactics, Protective Services Training, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Supervision, Management, and Union Labor Management Training. He maintains membership with an array of civic and professional entities. Chief Pollard has been married to his wife (Katrelle) for 23 years and has one daughter, Tearre.

Please welcome the Chief when you see him!

Georgia CITIES WEEK

In partnership with T-Mobil, the City of Lithonia will expand its Lithonia Farmers and Artist Market on Main on October 10, moving it into the street to celebrate Georgia Cities Week. Join us between 12 and 4 pm to shop, eat, dance, and visit with your neighbors!

T • • **Mobile** Owned & Operated By Wireless Vision, LLC

MALL AT STONECREST Store: 678.215.0295



Virtual Village 2.0 After-School Programs October 5 - December 12

When the learning day is over, kids and youth still need to engage in activities to keep them entertained and help them thrive. After-school programs improve academic performance, encourage physical activity and good dietary habits, and improve student behavior.

Virtual Village 2.0 offers classes Monday - Saturday, including: Girl Scouts - More to Explore; Be Someone Chess Program; University Bridges; Helping All Students Master Mathematics; and much more! To view all program offerings and to register, please visit <u>DeKalbOYS</u>.

PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY!

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We encourage you to patronize local businesses as much as you can during this difficult period! Support them so that they can support you!

We thank the essential workers who keep Lithonia going strong during the pandemic. Show your appreciation whenever you see them at work!

NEW CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE NUMBER





TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF and OTHERS STAY HOME!

If you are sick, contact us or your provider. Use the ER if you have severe difficulty breathing >Wash your hands often

With soap and water for at least 20 seconds >Avoid close contact >Cover coughs and sneezes Cover your mouth and nose with a tisse when you cough >Wear a facemask if you are sick

If you are NOT side: Most head Y week at a fact finite, first in you are size it is to be a fact of the problems do not need to wear a mask as supply is needed for health care providers. > Clean and disinfect



CITY OFFICIALS AND STAFF

COUNCIL MEETINGS

October 5th and 19th

MEETINGS WILL BE HELD BY CONFERENCE CALL DUE TO THE PANDEMIC

Call 770-482-8136 for dial-in information.

City Hall Council Chambers 6920 Main Street Lithonia, GA 30058

Mayor

Shameka Reynolds Shameka.Reynolds@lithoniacity.org

Council Members

William 'Ric' Dodd Ric.Dodd@lithoniacity.org

Vanneriah Hawk-Wynn Vanneriah.Wynn@lithoniacity.org

Darold Honore Darold.Honore@lithoniacity.org

Diane W. Howard Diane.Howard@lithoniacity.org

Amelia Inman Amelia.Inman@lithoniacity.org

City Staff

LaThaydra Sands, City Administrator LaThaydra.Sands@lithoniacity.org

> Robinette Blount, City Clerk <u>CityClerk@lithoniacity.org</u>

Nathan Pollard, Chief of Police Nathan.Pollard@lithoniacity.org

Quinton Monson, Dir. of Public Works Quinton.Monson@lithoniacity.org

LITHONIA! A City With PURPOSE!



November, 2020 Volume 6, Issue 11 6920 Main Street, Lithonia GA 770-482-8136 http://www.cityoflithoniaga.org





LITHONIA HOLIDAY POP-UP MARKET

Saturday - November 21 12:00 – 4:00 PM

> 6980 Main Street Lithonia, 30058

Perfect for Purchasing Holiday Foods and Gifts!!!

CHIEF POLLARD WELCOMES KEY NEW LEADER



Lithonia's new Chief of Police, Nathan Pollard, has hired his second-in-command, Major Donald Ferguson, Ferguson comes to Lithonia with 35 years of experience with the Fulton County Sheriff's Office and the US Department of Justice. He brings extensive expertise in Accreditation Management, Leadership, Community Oriented Policing, Administrative and Management Training, Emergency Management, Strategic Planning, Civil Liability, Criminal Procedure, Futuristic Policing in the 21st Century, and Policy and Procedure Development.

Major Ferguson graduated from the University of West Georgia with a Bachelor's Degree in both Psychology and Criminal Justice; received a Master of Science Degree in Leadership from Grand Canyon University, and a Master's in Public Administration from Columbus State Universit and is currently a candidate for an Education Doctorate in Organizational Leadership at Grand Canyon University.

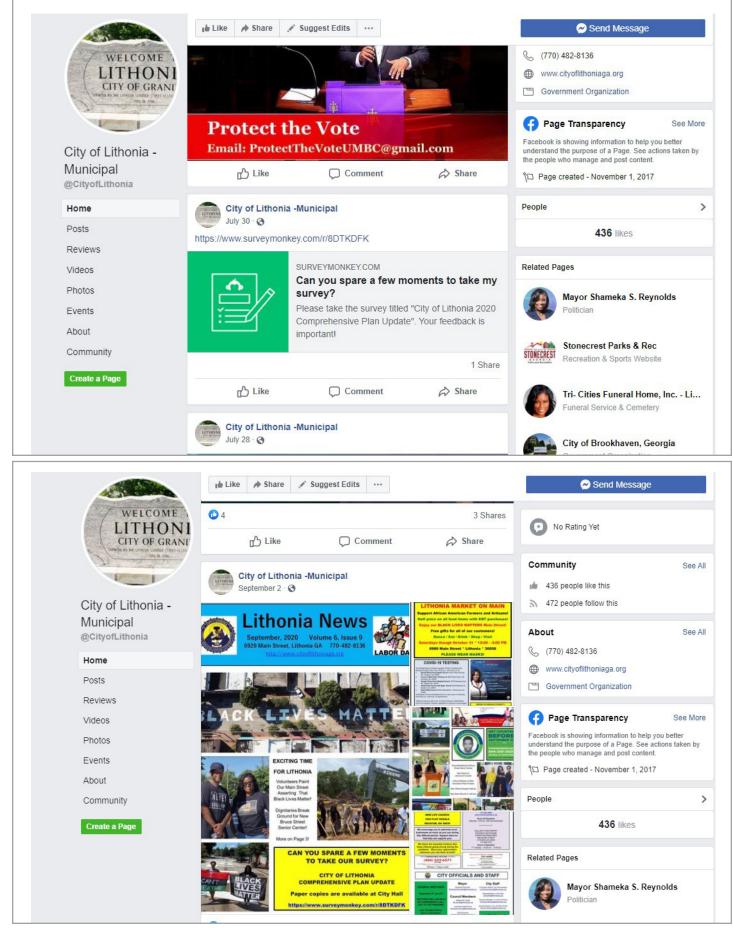
Ferguson is a Master Training Instructor, who has received multiple awards, has completed a wide range of specialized instruction, and is a member of an array of professional affiliates. He has three adult children and a granddaughter. Ferguson attributes his success to GOD, faith, selfempowerment, hard work, and commitment.

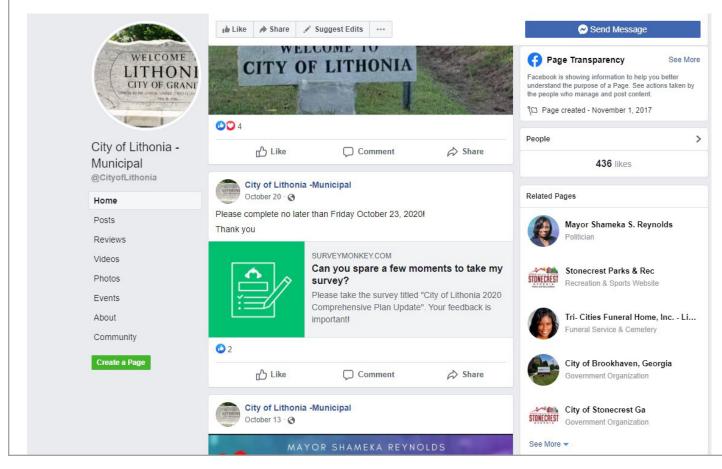
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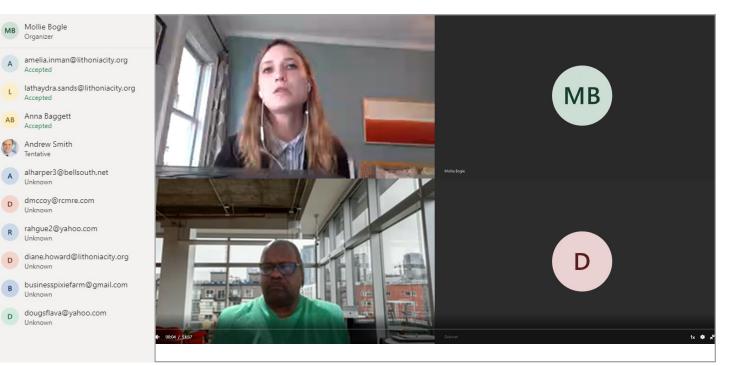


VIRTUAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Steering Committee Meeting #1



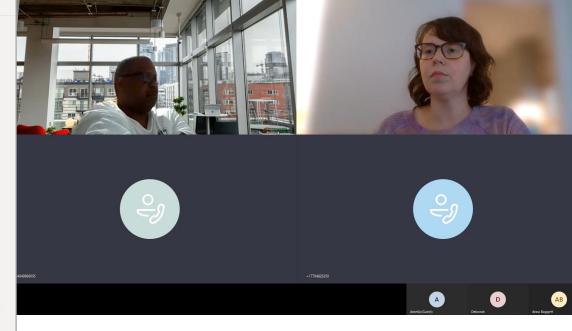
Steering Committee Meeting #2



VIRTUAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Steering Committee Meeting #3





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