



## **Keisha Lance Bottoms Announces Progressive Agenda for First 100 Days**

In her first 100 days as Mayor, Keisha Lance Bottoms will move swiftly to implement a progressive agenda to address pressing social and economic issues in our city.

This agenda is focused on five issue areas: Criminal Justice Reform, Affordable Housing, Homelessness and Economic Development/Workforce Development. This is in addition to the Ethics and Transparency Act of 2018, the most sweeping ethics and transparency reform package in the City's History, that was announced by Bottoms earlier this week.

Bottoms will move immediately to establish four Commissions consisting of leading experts on these critical issues from throughout the city and region. They will be charged with proposing specific legislative and policy approaches within the first 100 days of the new Administration.

In the Bottoms Administration, our city's pressing challenges will be addressed collaboratively and openly, with the public able to participate at every stage. It is especially important that historically marginalized community and non-profit organizers and voices can be engaged in shaping public policy. These Commissions will be designed to prioritize meaningful public input and engagement. We have seen how successful public engagement can work in our city. Everyone's voice matters, and our pledge is to make sure that no one is left behind.

### **Criminal Justice Reform**

Atlanta has taken some initial steps toward meaningful criminal justice reform, but there is an urgent need to move faster, expand programs and act more aggressively to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline, address repeat offenders who are responsible for much of the petty crime happening in our city, and reform the Municipal Court so that poor Atlantans are not jailed simply for their inability to pay bond.

Keisha Lance Bottoms will move Atlanta away from broken-window style policing toward genuine community policing.

Keisha Lance Bottoms will:

- Expand the Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiative, which was launched in 2017 through a partnership with the City of Atlanta and APD, Fulton County and numerous social justice and faith-based organizations.
- Direct additional resources to the Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiative to strengthen its impact and broaden its reach.
- Expand the City of Atlanta's new deportation defense legal program, which offers pro-bono legal assistance to immigrants facing deportation in our communities. We must not

waver in our support for our foreign-born residents when the regional federal ICE office reports an 80 percent increase in arrests under President Trump.

- Increase resources available to the Public Defender's Office, including identifying opportunities to partner with legal aid clinics and organizations, and seek grant support to fund additional public defender and social worker positions.
- Ask the Criminal Justice Reform Commission to identify ways the Atlanta Police Department can enhance bias training and cultural awareness training, especially for interacting with LGBTQ individuals and immigrant communities.
- Ask the Criminal Justice Reform Commission to identify recommendations for reforming money bond policies at the Atlanta Municipal Court to ensure no one is jailed because of their inability to pay bond.

### **Affordable Housing**

Keisha Lance Bottoms will:

- Ask the Affordable Housing Commission to identify tools available to the City of Atlanta right now that can be utilized to preserve and expand the number of affordable housing units currently available.
- Accelerate legislation to implement recommendations from the Atlanta City Design, developed by Commissioner Tim Keane, to promote density and reduce parking requirements, which significantly raise the cost of new apartment buildings.
- Keisha Lance Bottoms will also form a new Working Group with Commissioner Tim Keane and the Department of City Planning and MARTA to accelerate transit-oriented development projects, including a robust commitment to affordable housing at those new developments, in order to house working families directly on MARTA lines, reducing the need for parking and the cost of commuting.
- Use the new deportation defense program as a model for an Eviction Defense Program. Fulton County has an eviction crisis, and while the City of Atlanta has no jurisdiction over evictions, Mayor Bottoms will establish a new pilot program to offer pro-bono legal assistance to City of Atlanta residents in Fulton County facing eviction. Eviction throws families into chaos. Children are forced to move schools, disrupting their education and stripping them of the opportunities available to children living in stable homes. The costs of repeatedly moving are a burden on working families and are a drain on savings and take-home pay. Housing stability is essential for supporting working and low-income families.
- Pursue her \$1B public-private plan to raise \$1B in dedicated funding to fight displacement and ensure that Atlanta has enough quality, safe, affordable housing for all our communities.
- Establish a rental housing initiative to support the fifty percent of Atlantans who rent their homes.
- Pursue the expansion of inclusionary zoning throughout the City's boundaries, so that every new development contributes to maintaining affordability for Atlantans.

## **Homelessness**

We see far too many people still in need of services and housing. Atlanta is too progressive and prosperous to leave these individuals behind. Our homeless residents must be treated with dignity and respect.

Keisha Lance Bottoms will:

- Ask the Homelessness Commission to develop a proposal for a day-time resource center operated by the City in partnership with a non-profit organization, which would serve meals, offer people access to a complete range of services, as well as computers and phones.
- Accelerate development of new, smaller shelter facilities, including low-barrier shelters and shelters for women and families.
- Work with organizations to identify interventions and solutions for homeless LGBTQ youth, and direct additional resources to organizations providing services to this vulnerable population.
- Seek greater public input on solutions to address homelessness, especially with faith-based organizations, and seek private philanthropic support to maximize the impact of our city's homeless service providers.

## **Economic Development and Workforce Development**

Keisha Lance Bottoms will:

- Re-establish the successful Hire One initiative, and expand it to include formerly incarcerated individuals, formerly homeless individuals and individuals living in specific zip codes in the city with higher rates of unemployment.
- In addition to passing strong legislation to ensure airport workers keep their jobs during transition periods, work with SEIU and Unite Here! to push for all airport concessions and retail workers to earn \$15 per hour.
- Leverage the Atlanta-Fulton County Recreation Authority to secure agreements for workers at Philips Arena and the Atlanta Zoo, including all contract workers, to earn \$15 per hour, the livable wage for our community.
- Encourage city contractors and vendors to hire city residents, particularly for infrastructure projects, and consider performance incentive program for firms which meet a threshold of 30 percent or more employees living within city limits.
- Ask the Economic Development and Workforce Development Commission to make recommendations to maintain Atlanta as a progressive city where high-tech sector jobs grow and relocate.
- Ask the Economic Development and Workforce Development Commission to make recommendations for innovative new opportunities to partner with potential corporations considering relocating to Atlanta to support new affordable housing development, new transit development and new educational opportunities.