



District 5

Annual Report

2009

Commissioner Lee May

Letter to Residents

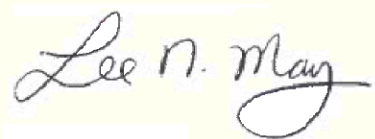
Dear District 5,

2009 was a very exciting year. There has been a great deal of changes both locally and throughout our nation. However, despite those changes I am excited about the progress we have been able to make. This past year has proven to be one of great accomplishment and growth within our District 5. I thank each of you for supporting me in my second term as your commissioner and for allowing me to be the voice for the many great people and businesses that call DeKalb County District 5 home. Through our collaborative effort, we have implemented policies that have made our neighborhoods, businesses & schools more safe, and we have created a system of infrastructure improvements that are benefiting communities throughout the county. Progress was our goal, and progress has been our result.

Each year within our county, we are faced with new challenges. It has been my duty throughout my terms as your Commissioner to ensure that I address our challenges with a sound plan of action, clear conscious, open ear and humbled heart, and I have done just that. As we look to the future of Dekalb County, I am not only encouraged, but I am also excited by the many great possibilities and opportunities that are available within our region. As your county commissioner, I will continue to take on the challenges that face us and I will support policies that you, the hardworking citizens of District 5, advocate for.

This 2009 Annual Report will detail the initiatives that I have found to be top priorities for the majority of District 5 residents. In addition, I will outline the progress that has been made towards accomplishing specific goals.

Together we will truly make a difference,



Lee N. May II

DeKalb County Commissioner; District 5



Biography

Commissioner Lee May is the youngest person in the history of DeKalb County Government to be elected to serve on the Board of Commissioners. DeKalb County District 5 voters elected him to a four year term as Commissioner in November 2008. District 5 serves the following DeKalb County areas: Conley, Conyers, Decatur, Ellenwood, Lithonia and Stone Mountain. DeKalb County Board of Commissioners oversees a \$600+ million budget . Commissioner May serves as the voice for nearly 160,000 residents located in the heart of one of the most affluent African-American communities in the country. May campaigned on a platform



to address the concerns of the people and he stands on a promise to make a positive impact in his community. He currently serves as the Deputy Presiding Officer of the Board of Commissioners, Chairman of the Planning & Economic Development Committee, and a member on the Public Safety and General Safety Committee. May is the Chairman of the Community and Economic Development Steering Committee with (NACo) National Association of Counties. He is a proud member and leader within the Association of County Commissioners (ACCG), Georgia Democratic Party State Committee, Leadership Georgia, Leadership DeKalb, and Young Elected Officials Network (YEO). He is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and serves as one of the youngest ordained elders at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Bishop Eddie L. Long.

Commissioner May is a 1998 honors graduate of the historic Clark Atlanta University, and the prestigious Emory University. May is married to wife Robin and father to daughters Ryann Kimberly and Reagan Leanne.

2009 Accomplishments

Commissioner Lee May has committed himself to continue to provide you with the essential services you need. The areas that Commissioner May has found to be of most importance to District 5 residents are: Public Safety, Economic Development and Human Services.

Public Safety

GOAL: Create an environment in DeKalb County that is safer and more inviting to residents and visitors alike.



Commissioner Lee May Speaks to Residents at a Town-Hall Forum

RESULT: I listened to your desire to make DeKalb County a safer place.

In 2009, I voted to increase law enforcement officials:

- ◆ 35 new police officers hired
- ◆ 5 new code enforcement officers hired
- ◆ 4 Deputy Sheriffs added to the fugitive squad
- ◆ 1 principal investigator district attorney hired
- ◆ 1 juvenile probation officer hired
- ◆ 1 full-time community prosecutor hired

RESULT: National Night Out (NNO) - This year's 26th Annual NNO event was celebrated throughout the county with various parades and block parties. NNO is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

RESULT: Crime Prevention Tour (Aug. 2009) - The goal of this event was to provide a forum for DeKalb County residents to meet face-to-face with local elected officials and law enforcement agencies in order to discuss the issues of gangs, juvenile justice, domestic violence, elderly and disabled abuse, community prosecution, abandonment, criminal justice, DeKalb County Police Department Interactive Community Policing and various other topics. The keynote speakers included: Commissioner Lee May, District Attorney Gwen Keyes-Fleming, Solicitor-General Robert James and Sheriff Thomas Brown.

RESULT: Funding for Interactive Community Policing (ICP)/ Neighborhood Associations/ Volunteers in Patrol (VIP) Programs

- ◆ Interactive Community Policing (ICP) partnerships with local community organizations have been able to deter crime.
- ◆ Use neighborhood associations to develop a system for monitoring your neighborhood. Highly organized communities are less likely to be victimized by crime.
- ◆ The establishment of VIP units are another way to become directly involved in community safety. VIP is a non-confrontational neighborhood patrol program that works in conjunction with ICP strategy. For more info on ICP, Neighborhood Watch or VIP programs contact your DeKalb County Police Department at 770-724-7550., or visit on the web at www.dekalbpolicy.com

2009 Accomplishments

Economic Development

GOAL: Improve the functionality of our county infrastructure by implementing strategic community improvement projects.

RESULT: Initiated plans to create the Stonecrest Community Improvement District (SCID). The SCID will be leading the charge to implement vital transportation enhancement projects coupled with land use and zoning strategies that will enhance mobility and improve access to DeKalb, while simultaneously creating value for both the county and residents alike. Community improvement districts have been an important part of transforming communities for some time now. An example of a successful community improvement district is the Perimeter Community Improvement District (PCID). The efforts of the PCID have made the Perimeter Mall area the success that it is today. Our aim is to bring that same level of prosperity to the Stonecrest Community Improvement District projects.

GOAL: Implement expansion projects to provide District 5 residents with adequate and reliable public transportation options.

RESULT: Blight affects property value and is an eyesore within our communities. Unfortunately, the economic downturn has caused an increase in foreclosed homes and abandoned properties, which has created an even more serious blight problem. However, through projects such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Neighborhood Stabilization Program, we have been given ammunition to attack the problem of blight in our District 5 communities. Through these initiatives, DeKalb County has experienced some noticeable differences and citizens have had the opportunity to get involved and receive part of the \$18.5 million federal grant money to purchase foreclosed properties.

GOAL: Amplify DeKalb County's current infrastructure by focusing on the completion of local development projects.

RESULT: I have advocated for numerous transportation and road infrastructure improvement projects:

- ◆ Additional lane on Stephenson Road
- ◆ Bridge on Bouldercrest Road at South River; Improvement on Flakes Mill Road; South River Phase 4 bike trail
- ◆ Intersection Improvements: Panola Road at Young Road; Wellborn Road at Browns Mill Road; River Road at Hearn Road; River Road at Krista Lane
- ◆ Lithonia Industrial Boulevard Extension, from Rogers Lake Road. to Rock Chapel Road
- ◆ New Road from Snapfinger Woods to DeKalb Medical Parkway.
- ◆ Road Improvements: Redan Road at Panola Road; Redan Road. at Ellis Road. To Lani Dr.; River Road at Panthersville Road; near Cedar Grove School
- ◆ Snapfinger Road widening, from Wesley Chapel Road to Flat Shoals Road

2009 Accomplishments

Human Services

GOAL: Ensure that we are providing adequate services to meet the need of Senior Citizens in DeKalb County.

RESULT: Commissioner May has advocated to keep funding for seniors and has improved the quality of senior services.

- ◆ May voted to restore State & Federal cuts of \$195,662 to “Meals on Wheels” and similar programs.
- ◆ May voted to restore \$45,781 in cuts made to Lou Walker Senior Center and grant matched \$140,000 to seniors.
- ◆ May Voted to restore \$35,000 in transportation voucher funding to seniors.



Commissioner Lee May Takes Photo with Local Youth

GOAL: Create the DeKalb County Youth Commission & Office of Children Services to focus on more youth advocacy.

RESULT: The goal of the DeKalb County Youth Commission is to bring about positive change within our youth. Throughout the year the youth of our communities have heard messages of inspiration, participated in various activities and were able to discuss the challenges their generation faces. As of January 2010 funds have been allocated within the budget to support the activities of the DeKalb County Youth Commission. The following events have laid the foundation for establishing this important commission:

Partnered with Rap Artist TI to Speak to DeKalb Youth

During T.I.'s speech he emphasized the importance of hard work, fair play, and nonviolence. T.I.'s message really seemed to resonate with the students, and when you begin to reach the youth, you begin to change our community for the better.



Commissioner Lee May and Atlanta Falcons Star Chauncey Davis

Commissioner Lee May Partners with Chauncey Davis' Youth Foundation

Falcons' football star Chauncey Davis' Charitable Youth Organization and Commissioner Lee May's Youth Commission met in partnership to tackle the growing issue of bullying in our schools. In the wake of the recent bullying events in DeKalb County Schools, both May and Davis thought it prevalent to act on the issue. Visit www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov for more information on how to stop bullying in our communities. Also in December 2009, Chauncey Davis' Bike4Life event provided over 100 bicycles to local youth.

SAT/ACT Prep Classes

College admission tests are critical to ensuring our youth have the opportunity to pursue higher education. On various Saturdays throughout the year we have partnered with Kaplan and Wave Bound to provide SAT/ACT prep for our DeKalb youth.

2009 Accomplishments

Quality of Life Improvements

GOAL: Create a better standard of living for residents of District 5

RESULT: Quality of life in DeKalb County is being improved by the various quality of life projects that have been started and completed in the District in 2009. These projects include:

- ◆ The Hairston-Crossing Library Expansion
- ◆ The Redan Park Community Center (*New Construction*)

The Redan Park Community Center is being constructed by DeKalb County Park and Recreation Department to create additional recreational opportunities for the entire family and community. The community center will be a 24,000 square foot recreation center with a gymnasium, indoor walking track, fitness facility, multi-purpose rooms, game rooms, computer room, arts and crafts rooms, and an aerobics room. In addition, a 300 square foot concession stand will also support the ball fields.



(L-R) AJ Wright Regional Director, Commissioner Lee May, Mayor Tonya Peterson, Commissioner Connie Stokes



Groundbreaking Ceremony at Salem-Panola Library
(L-R): CEO Burrell Ellis, Commissioner Lee May

- ◆ The Rock Chapel Park Field Renovations
- ◆ The Salem-Panola Library Expansion (*New Construction*)
- ◆ The Stonecrest Branch Library (*New Construction*)
- ◆ The Sugar Creek Golf and Tennis Center Renovation Project
DeKalb County will be working alongside Liquid Design Studios, LLC to renovate the Sugar Creek Golf and Tennis Center. The improvements to the center are as follows: renovate the entrance to the club, renovate the restrooms, upgrade concession areas, seating areas, display areas and merchandising areas, improve storage facilities, maximize interior lighting, improve the quality of current interior and exterior with painting and other infrastructure improvements. Liquid Design Studios, LLC will ensure that all improvements meet proper building code requirements and also meet standards set forth by the Americans with

2009 Community Events

Budget Town Hall Meetings

The 2009 District 5 Budget Meetings were held on February 5, 2009 at the Berean Christian Church, February 13, 2009 at the Lou Walker Senior Center and February 17, 2009 at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church. Our nation's economic circumstance changed things a bit in the county this year, and at each of these meetings the various elements of the 2009 budget were discussed. With the 2009 budget decreased by nearly \$60 million, we were required to make tough decisions regarding budget cuts and appropriations. It was of great importance to Commissioner May to understand the concerns of residents when making budget decisions, particularly with a budget deficit and impending cuts. It was Commissioner May's goal that constituents understand the budget limitations in the simplest of terms. Commissioner May wanted for you all to not only see where money is going, but to also approve of how money is being allocated. It is Commissioner May's hope that each District 5 resident was satisfied with the 2009 budget process and that each of you is equipped with the tools necessary to handle this challenging fiscal year with confidence.



Residents attend Town-Hall Meeting

Family Events



Commissioner Lee May Speaks to the crowd at Family Fun Day

Family Fun Days have been a great way for the District 5 community to come together. The goal of these events is to promote a more interactive community environment. If you haven't made it out yet to one of our Family Fun Days, you are truly missing out.

The following is a list of Family Events so far this year in DeKalb:

- ◆ Family Day at Mall at Stonecrest.
 - Debuted the new mall youth policy and promoted the Mall at Stonecrest as a place for the entire family to enjoy.
- ◆ 2nd Annual Family Fun Day at the Bransby Outdoor YMCA.
 - Activities included horseback riding, swimming, rock climbing, face painting, volleyball and paddle boating.

District 5 Community



Commissioner May talks with District 5 constituents

Bridging the GAP

Commissioner May actively works to ensure that District 5 residents and leaders are informed on issues taking place within the community. It is important for constituents, local businesses and stakeholders in DeKalb County, to be properly informed on the various happenings as they relate to our community. Commissioner May is not only your District 5 representative, but also lives in the district, which means his decisions affect him too.

To ensure that you are kept up to date with the various happenings within DeKalb County make sure that you are utilizing all the resources available to you:

- Attend community meetings and events
- Check District 5 website for community updates by visiting www.leemaydistrict5.com
- Read our monthly newsletter for important District 5 information
- Visit yourdekalb.com; DeKalb County's official website for important county information
- Review the decisions we're making as a board by visiting <http://agenda.co.dekalb.ga.us/agendamaestro/Query.aspx>
- Become a Friend visit [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com): Search Commissioner Lee May and request Add Friend
- Follow Commissioner May on Twitter by visiting www.twitter.com/leemay