



Commissioner marvin S. Arrington, Jr. &
Friends of Wolf Creek
present...

"It Takes A Village" **ESSAY COMPETITION**

Submission Information:

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Why I support Annexation into the City of Atlanta

The beauty of relocation is that you have the chance to start anew, to begin your destiny in a new place with new faces. I was originally born in Madison, Wisconsin, but because of job opportunities and degree requirements, my family moved three more times along the east coast before settling into the city of Atlanta. Since our arrival, the city has offered innumerable amounts of new faces and experiences that I would not have received anywhere else. Almost all aspects of my life involved the metro Atlanta area; my elementary, middle, and high schools were all downtown, my family and I attended church at Central United Methodist Church, adjacent to the Georgia Dome, and my parents both work within the Atlanta University Center. Except for my pediatrician, my brother's sporting events, and occasional weekend entertainment, the city has been my nesting ground. And so, when I got the occasional "Where are you from?" from strangers throughout my freshman year at college, I naturally said Atlanta.

That being said, I support anything that might be beneficial to my neighborhood. Living in South Fulton has been wonderful, but without proper accreditation, we will remain unincorporated. Annexing into the city will be advantageous to us all, and with the proper care that the incorporation will provide, our district will once again be rejuvenated. Departments that facilitate with the upkeep of Atlanta would also include our neighborhood, and I am struggling to understand how extra police protection, fire and rescue assistance, park maintenance, and watershed management could be detrimental. The police department has reached numbers previously unseen by the city, ensuring protection in every borough. Parks and Recreation additionally provides after school programs and senior activities, cultivating a community that is unparalleled in

any other part of the state. Despite recent allegations and lawsuits, the Atlanta Public School system provides a advantageous, larger network of schools and opportunities that other systems might not have access to. All of the discounted amenities around the city for students might not be accessible to outlying districts. In some parts, the Fulton property tax bill is actually higher than the Atlanta tax bill, a detail that affects all generations. Meanwhile, the Atlanta property tax has not increased in several years, an accomplishment that mirrors the city's financial stability.

In spite of the aforementioned benefits, the main reason I support annexation into the city is because I would like to officially be apart of a city that opened its arms to me 12 years ago. Sure, South Fulton would make a devastatingly beautiful city, but what it lacks in longstanding history, resources, and services, Atlanta willingly makes up for.