

## Senate Urban Affairs – Roster 2010

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*\*Became Chairman/Ex-Officio on 3/25/10*

2009-2010  
**Senate Urban Affairs Committee Rules**

Introduction:

Each member of the Committee should be mindful of the Senate Rules especially regarding attendance.

1. All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public in accordance with the Senate.
2. A Quorum of the Committee shall be seven (7) members.
3. The Chairman shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
4. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to subcommittees for study. Such subcommittees in turn shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full Committee at such time as shall be designated by the Chairman.
5. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
6. A bill or resolution will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or other legislator whose name appears first or second on the list of authors or co-sponsors, unless the author or co-sponsor has made other arrangements with the Chairman.
7. Precedence of motions shall be as set out in the Senate Rules.
8. No member of the Committee shall be allowed to vote by proxy.
9. Members may not abstain from voting unless the member or any member of the Senator's immediate family has a direct pecuniary interest in the result of such vote which interest is distinct, unique or peculiar to the Senator or the Senator's immediate family.
10. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire.
11. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.
12. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate as adopted shall govern.

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, March 23, 2010**

The Senate Urban Affairs Committee held its first meeting of the 2010 Legislative Session on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, in room 125 of the Capitol. Vice Chairman John Wiles called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Members present at the meeting were as follows:

Senator John Wiles, 37<sup>th</sup>, Vice Chairman  
Senator Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr., 43<sup>rd</sup>, Secretary  
Senator Gail Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Gloria Butler, 55<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Judson Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup>  
Senator Donzella James, 35<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Valencia Seay, 34<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Horacena Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>

Vice Chairman Wiles welcomed Committee members and guests to the first Urban Affairs Committee meeting of the 2010 Legislation Session. Vice Chairman Wiles informed the Committee he will preside over the meeting as the former Chairman, Senator David Adelman, resigned from the Senate to fulfill his new job duties as United States Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore.

Vice Chairman Wiles reviewed the committee agenda and announced the first order of business will be to hear a presentation from the Georgia Trade Association of Nonprofit Developers (GSTAND) discussing affordable housing and the rampant home foreclosure crisis. Several members of GSTAND rose to expound on Georgia's current housing challenges and asked the Committee to support three specific pieces of legislation, [SB 57](#), [HB 972](#), and [HB 935](#). Andy Schneggenburger, with Atlanta Housing Association of Neighborhood-based Developers (AHAND), was the first member to rise and address the Committee. Mr. Schneggenburger introduced three primary points for the hearing: 1) housing is directly related to economic prosperity, 2) the negative impact of foreclosures on Georgia communities and 3) housing stability promotes job stability and economic impact. Next, LaShawn Hoffman, Director of Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association, rose to discuss the impact of foreclosures on Atlanta neighborhoods. The floor was then turned over to Tia McCoy with RRC Homeownership Center, who shared first-hand field experiences within her role as a foreclosure counselor. Next, Tom Rodgers with the University of Georgia Demographic Research Center and Paul Bolster with Urban Residential Development Corporation rose to discuss the results from the affordable housing study of the State Planning Act and introduced innovative supportive housing strategies. Last, Kate Little with GSTAND gave closing remarks and urged the Committee to support affordable housing options for poor Americans.

Vice Chairman Wiles acknowledged Senator James for a question. Senator James inquired about the status of SB 57. Next Senator Orrock thanked the panel for their testimony and shared her personal concerns regarding the housing crisis.

Moving to the next order of business, Vice Chairman Wiles recognized Senator James to present Senate Resolution 1241.

**SR 1241 (Senator James, 35<sup>th</sup>) - Fulton County Multi-Jurisdictional Burglary Task Force; urging all cities in Fulton County to participate in important coalition**

Senator James rose to discuss SR 1241, which recognizes the devastating effect crime has on communities and recommends cities in Fulton County, who are not current members, to join the Fulton County Multi-Jurisdictional Burglary Task Force. Vice Chairman Wiles offered a friendly amendment on line 15, adding the words “have joined,” to clarify and acknowledge those cities that are current members of the task force. Senator Orrock agreed with Vice Chairman Wiles’ amendment and made a motion to amend SR 1241 by changing the wording on line 15 from “are joining” to “have joined.” Senator Seay seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Wiles instructed the Committee to vote on the amendment to SR 1241 by saying “I” in favor of the amendment and “No” to oppose the amendment. The amendment passed unanimously. Next, Vice Chairman Wiles asked if any member of the Committee would like to make a motion of Do Pass by committee substitute for SR 1241. Senator Orrock made a motion of Do Pass by committee substitute, and Senator Tate seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously in favor of *Do Pass by Substitute*.

**SR 1241 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

Next, Vice Chairman Wiles asked Senator James to present the final piece of legislation on the committee agenda, SR 1198.

**SR 1198 (Senator James, 35<sup>th</sup>) - Senate Preservation of Unincorporated South Fulton County Study Committee; create**

Senator James rose to elaborate on SR 1198, which creates a Senate Preservation of Unincorporated South Fulton County Study Committee-to study the benefits of annexing territory in unincorporated South Fulton County. Senator James strongly believed this study committee would allow communities to help shape their futures.

Vice Chairman Wiles articulated a concern regarding the funding of the study committee. He cautioned, due to tight budget limitations it may be difficult to get approval to fund committee allowances to members of the study committee. As a result, Vice Chairman Wiles suggested a friendly amendment to remove the language regarding the allotment of per diems. Senator James agreed the removal of the allowances would aid in the successful passage of the bill out of the Senate. Senator Tate made a motion of *Do Pass by Substitute* and Senator Ramsey seconded. SR 1198 passed out the committee by unanimous consent.

**SR 1198 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

There being no further business, Vice Chairman Wiles adjourned the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr., 43<sup>rd</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Karla Johnson, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
240 State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Casey Cagle  
Lieutenant Governor

March 25, 2010

The Honorable Bob Ewing  
Secretary of the Senate  
353 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Bob:

Due to the recent departure of Senator David Adelman from the Georgia Senate, I am appointing **Senator Gloria Butler, 55th**, to serve on the Senate Committee on Urban Affairs as **Chairman/Ex-Officio**.

This appointment is effective immediately.

Please contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

/s/ Casey Cagle  
Lieutenant Governor