

Citizens Against Cityhood in DeKalb- Public Comments Oct 21, 2015

Why do governments exist? One major reason is that they create rules. Need to protect people from conflicts and to provide law and order. Karl Marx explains, it is because the very idea of "property" makes people selfish and greedy. The right of a group to be free of outside interference. Should government be involved in social programs and the economy?

1. I recommend that the process change to favor the citizen being educated and involved from the beginning to the end
2. Succession and appointments of elected officials should be addressed. An indicted official should not be able to be the CEO in jail after being convicted. The right of the community should be greater than the right of the individual, unless it is a right in the bill of rights.
- ★ 3. The question about services city lite and full services have not be clearly addressed. Will cities be required to have a referendum to add services?
4. How can it be easier to create a city than to remove a corrupt politician? The recall laws should be revised
5. If proponents believe in local control then why not be able to create cities within cities. This would be similar to a parent company having subsidiaries.
6. I believe that the study committee and DeKalb government should consider increasing the number of commission district from 7 to 11 in DeKalb County as an alternative to cityhood and a creating a more representative government. It is also appropriate to review the form and structure of DeKalb County government.
- ★ 7. The real reason for cityhood I believe is to lay the ground work for creating new school districts. See HR4.
8. There are no counties in Georgia that are completely covered with cities. Fulton and Gwinnett are the closest. Most counties in Georgia are consolidating that have large cities.
9. Those that give up freedom for local control and security will in the end, end up with neither.

10. I support the efforts of the study committee to revise the cityhood and annexation process
11. Cityhood does not mean economic development $0 \times 0 = 0$
12. I support adding petition process to each house district within the city boundaries to make sure there is a representative sample that is in support of the cityhood effort.
13. The study committee should seriously deliberate on forming large cities, most cities growth to their size. Creating Greenhaven would make it the 2nd largest city in the state. This would be unprecedented. A special rule should be in play when a new city is proposed that would be over 50,000, etc. *Overnight with 300,000 people*
- ★ 14. New recommendations and policies should apply to all pending charters .
15. Deception of the residents in regards to the DeKalb pension issue should be clarified. South DeKalb will not have the only residents paying into the DeKalb pension. All residents contribute to the DeKalb pension regardless of if they are in a city or not. The pensions are paid directly by resident through their property taxes not through a city service. The DeKalb pension is an employee benefit, not a service.
16. Boundary issues are still unresolved. Lithonia and other cities have not agreed on boundaries with the new proposed cities
17. Common standards are needed in the feasibility studies. It is hard to compare CVI and *Andrew* Andy Young feasibility reports.
18. Cities are being used to segregate are citizens.

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