

# Neighborhood Survey – Comparing Possible Futures

## Background & Neighborhood Affiliation

As you probably know, our area of DeKalb County is the subject of ongoing planning and debate about the future governmental structure – inclusion in a new city, annexation by the City of Atlanta, or remaining an unincorporated part of DeKalb County.

The purpose of this survey is to gather input from citizens, residents and property-owners in the neighborhoods where multiple future visions collide. It contains 14 questions, plus space for you to add comments of your own. It should take only 5 minutes or so to complete.

This survey was created by the Mason Mill Civic Association and made available to others in our area. Our hope is to help provide the planners and decision makers with better information about the hopes, concerns and general preferences of the people who would be affected by these visions.

Our pledges to you:

1. We will not share \*any\* information that could be identified with any individual respondent, to protect everyone's anonymity and encourage directness and candor in responses.
2. We will share all aggregate information and all comments publicly, without bias toward/against any of these futures.

Thank you for taking the time to provide your input!

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1. Your name

*[CONFIDENTIAL - only for purposes of validating eligibility to be included in survey results.]*

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2. Address (street and number, please)

*[This helps with validation, and also in analyzing differences in preferences by street and neighborhood.]*

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3. Your primary neighborhood affiliation (*please circle ONE*):

- Mason Mill
- Victoria Estates
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_



4. Connection to neighborhood (*please circle ALL that apply*)

- Resident (I live here)
- Owner of residential property
- Occupy commercial or retail property (I run a business here)
- Owner of commercial property

## Assumptions to Make about Vague & Changing Plans

At this time, there are no specific plans on the table for a new DeKalb city, nor is there an active push by the City of Atlanta to annex.

The absence of concrete proposals presents some challenges in surveying! (We hope that these proposals will be updated to reflect survey input from you.) Therefore, please consider the following definitions to be "placeholders" that represent the general concepts:

- **NEW CITY.** We understand that organizers of last year's Briarcliff and Lakeside city initiatives, plus some state legislators, are working on a proposal for the Georgia Legislature to begin considering in November. For the purposes of this survey, consider "New City" to represent a plan that would include much of the unincorporated areas lying between Atlanta, Decatur, Brookhaven, Chamblee, Doraville and Tucker. Also consider that this new city would assume responsibility for several services provided by the County. (For example: police, planning, parks, roads have been discussed.)
- **ATLANTA.** We understand that the City of Atlanta is open to annexing neighborhoods that are interested in joining. An initiative based in Druid Hills has been facilitating discussions with neighborhoods that include the current Fernbank and Briar Vista Elementary districts. For the purposes of this survey, consider "Atlanta" to represent an extension of Atlanta by annexation, extending from current city borders, northeast roughly to North Druid Hills Road and east roughly to Clairmont Avenue.
- **REMAIN UNINCORPORATED.** We understand that the legislators involved in the cityhood planning process have stated a preference for leaving no "islands," no isolated pieces of unincorporated DeKalb County, resulting from the creation of new cities or re-drawing existing city lines. For the purposes of this survey, consider "Remain Unincorporated" to represent remaining unincorporated and not isolated - but recognizing the strong possibility of a New City having been incorporated nearby, as well as the possibility of Atlanta having expanded somewhat nearby. (That is, not exactly the status quo, but remaining in a changed DeKalb County.)

### INITIAL MATCH-UPS: HYPOTHETICAL COMPARISONS.

In answering these \*first\* questions, please assume the following:

1. Your overall taxes and fees would remain roughly the same, and
2. Your children's school assignments would not change.

[In the next section you will be given an opportunity to express opinions, hopes and concerns about those issues, and any others that are on your mind, for each possible entity.]



5. Assuming (for now) that taxes/fees and school assignments would not change, circle which of these two hypothetical futures you would prefer (or "No preference" between these two).

- New City
- Atlanta
- No Preference



6. Assuming (for now) that taxes/fees and school assignments would not change, circle which of these two hypothetical futures you would prefer (or "No preference" between these two).

- Atlanta
- Remain Unincorporated
- No Preference



7. Assuming (for now) that taxes/fees and school assignments would not change, circle which of these two hypothetical futures you would prefer (or "No preference" between these two).

- Remain Unincorporated
- New City
- No Preference

No More Hypotheticals: Your Opinions

You're almost done! Just a few more questions.

First, here is your opportunity to express your opinions about the three possible entities whose visions intersect in our area. In questions 8 through 10, please try to articulate specific issues that drive your interest and support (or lack thereof) for each of these entities.

|   | <b>Positives:</b><br>Issues that would drive my support <i>toward</i> this vision. | <b>Negatives:</b><br>Issues that would drive my support <i>away from</i> this vision. |
|---|--|---|
|  <b>8. NEW CITY</b>                 |  |   |
|  <b>9. ATLANTA</b>                |  |   |
|  <b>10. REMAIN UNINCORPORATED</b> |  |   |



11. Now, please gather your opinions into a single forced ranking:

|                              | <b>Ranking</b><br><b>(1 = favorite, 2 = middle, 3 = worst)</b> |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>NEW CITY</b>              |  |
| <b>ATLANTA</b>               |  |
| <b>REMAIN UNINCORPORATED</b> |  |

Nearing the end! All that remain are questions about how your feelings about each of the futures might be tied to where Emory ends up. *(Please check ONE box in EACH ROW.)*

|   | Decrease greatly | Decrease slightly | Be unchanged | Increase slightly | Increase greatly |
|---|------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|
|  12. If Emory were annexed into the <b>City of Atlanta</b> , my own preferences for becoming part of the City of Atlanta would... |                  |                   |              |                   |                  |
|  13. If Emory were part of a <b>New City</b> , my own preferences for being part of a New City would...                           |                  |                   |              |                   |                  |
|  14. If Emory remained in <b>Unincorporated DeKalb</b> , my own preferences for remaining in Unincorporated DeKalb would...       |                  |                   |              |                   |                  |


 15. That's all we have to ask. Thank you for getting this far.  
 Now it's **your** turn: Please provide any additional comments to share with planners and decision makers.