



# Suggested Questions for Atlanta City Council & Mayoral Candidates

These questions are based on PAD's Recommendations to Advance Public Safety: [www.atlantapad.org/public-safety](http://www.atlantapad.org/public-safety).

## DID YOU KNOW?

APD officers citywide have the ability to offer services instead of arresting for activities related to extreme poverty, addiction, or mental health. APD can divert adults to PAD and people under 17 to At Promise Centers. These resources can address the underlying issue, and there is no arrest record created.

In an analysis of 3.5 million 911 calls in City of Atlanta (from 2017-2020), the top call was for motor vehicle incidents. Non-injury motor vehicle incidents made up almost 900,000 calls.

When ATL311 accepts a community referral for supportive services, agents direct all in-person response requests to one of five 2-person PAD Harm Reduction teams.

Currently, PAD diversion services are available Monday - Friday, 7am - 7pm, and the City of Atlanta funds \$1.5M of PAD's \$4.5M budget (which is 0.5% of the City's public safety budget).

A person can be arrested and jailed in the Atlanta City Detention Center for up to 6 months for violating a city ordinance, such as loitering, public urination, panhandling, or urban camping. For most of these infractions, the penalty of jail time was added during the city's preparation for the 1996 Olympic Games. This is also when the city built ACDC.

In the City of Atlanta, a person can get arrested, pay a fine or serve up to 6 months of jail time for public urination, yet there are no public bathrooms that are open 24/7. This punishes unhoused people who do not have consistent access to clean, free bathrooms.

There are no publicly available crisis services in Fulton County or the City of Atlanta except for Grady Hospital. Fulton County does not have a sobering/detox center, and there are extremely limited substance use treatment options for people who cannot pay.

In Atlanta, there are an estimated 3,200 people who are homeless, many of whom are not able to access traditional shelters because of restrictive requirements.

## QUESTION FOR CANDIDATES:

What steps will you take to ensure APD officers divert all eligible people away from arrest and towards existing services provided through PAD (for people over 17) and At Promise Center (for youth under 17)?

Do you support having a non-police unit to fulfill administrative requests currently directed to 911, such as traffic incident reporting?

Do you believe the City of Atlanta should invest in the creation and implementation of more specialized first responder services, in addition to PAD? If so, what would these be and what steps would you take to make it happen?

What steps would you take to increase the city's funding of the PAD Initiative to ensure its success and greater availability to the city?

Do you support re-classifying or decriminalizing city ordinances to remove the penalty of incarceration, which disproportionately impacts Black residents? If so, what steps will you take to ensure this happens?

Do you support the creation of 24-hour public, self-cleaning bathrooms in high traffic areas throughout the city for both residents and visitors? If so, what steps will you take to make this happen?

How would you collaborate with Fulton and DeKalb counties to ensure that walk-in crisis services, detox, and drug treatment services are available to all City of Atlanta residents?

Do you support a dedicated city funding stream for housing solutions, which are evidence-based and low-barrier? How will you ensure there are more housing options for people with little to no income?