

VOTE TO STOP ~~COP CITY~~

Vote to Stop Cop City Coalition

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City of Atlanta Plays Games with Democracy *Referendum Petition Approval Delayed Additional Week*

(Atlanta, Georgia) - Today, the City of Atlanta informed residents organizing the Referendum to Stop Cop City that they would not be approving their signature petition form for what could possibly be another 7 days. The stated reason was allegedly missing lines on the paper. Community members in support of the referendum were confused but not surprised by the development - citing the lack of transparency and outright misinformation the City has engaged in throughout the process of approving the facility known as “Cop City.” Notably, the City took as long as legally allowed to return this information - waiting until 4PM on the last possible day to announce their decision to reject the signature petition. This information was only provided after residents went to City Hall and demanded the City’s legally required response to last week’s submission.

“I wish I could say we expected better from this Administration,” said Kamau Franklin, Executive Director of Community Movement Builders. **“We immediately made the changes and are re-submitting it tomorrow morning, and call on the Clerk to approve it as soon as possible. They did not mention any other issues with the document, whatsoever.”**

Residents involved with the referendum will continue to organize with the extra time - though they can’t begin actually accepting signatures until the form is approved. Over 60 have already signed up for training as “neighborhood captains,” and approximately 3,000 Atlanta residents have signed up to be notified when it is available.

“The coalition’s legal team anticipated that there would be back and forth with the Clerk's office as we worked together to finalize the petition language,” said Alex Joseph, a legal advisor to the coalition. **“We are taking the City at its word that it supports our right to challenge the construction of Cop City through a referendum. The referendum process is nearly unprecedented in Georgia, and we have prepared and submitted an amended referendum petition that we are confident addresses the concerns raised by the City Clerk.”**

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