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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioner Massiah Supports Denial of Data Center Text Amendment Following Community Input and Continued Review

DECATUR, Ga. — The DeKalb County Board of Commissioners voted June 23rd initially to defer and then in a vote to reconsider and ultimately deny a proposed text amendment that would have established new zoning regulations for data center development throughout the county.

Commissioner Nicole Massiah voted with her colleagues to deny the amendment citing the need for additional information, continued public engagement, and a commitment to make sure residents remain at the center of any future decisions regarding data center development.

"From the very beginning, I have said we need to gather the facts, listen to residents, and fully understand the long-term impacts before making decisions that could affect our communities for decades," Massiah said. "My vote reflects that commitment."

The proposed ordinance sought to establish new regulations governing data centers, including standards regarding the location, size, buffering, infrastructure, energy consumption, water usage, and community impacts. The county's existing moratorium on new data center applications and expansions remains in place through September 30, providing additional time for evaluation and public input.

Massiah said her decision was guided by extensive feedback from District 3 residents, many of whom expressed concerns about the potential impact of large-scale data center development on neighborhoods, infrastructure, environmental resources, and quality of life during the June 23rd meeting.

"My responsibility is to represent the people of District 3," Massiah said. "Residents asked questions, raised concerns, and wanted more information. I listened, and I believe it was important to take the time necessary to get this right."

Massiah also addressed claims raised during public discussions suggesting there were "backdoor deals" involving potential data center development in District 3.

"The facts and public record prove that property uses and zoning classifications regarding applications at issue occurred years before I took office and were not required

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to come before the Board of Commissioners." County records show zoning verification letters issued in May 2022 and February 2024 confirming the approval of zoning classification at the property located at 2235 Bouldercrest Road and explaining how county staff interpreted existing zoning regulations at the time.

Massiah reiterated that though others have sought to deceive the public with alternate facts, her position has remained consistent throughout the discussion.

"I have never supported placing data centers next to established neighborhoods," Massiah said. "No data centers in District 3 backyards. At the same time, I believe responsible leaders should study the facts, consider all options, and make decisions based on sound planning and community input."

Massiah said she expects the conversation to continue during the moratorium period and encouraged residents to remain engaged as county leaders evaluate future policy options.

"This was not a vote against technology or economic development," she said. "It was a vote for transparency, public participation, and making sure any decisions reflect the values and priorities of the people we serve."

For more information, contact Commissioner Nicole Massiah's office at 404-371-2425 or send an email to district3@dekalbcountyga.gov.

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