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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioner Nicole Massiah Puts Housing at Center of September Conversation with the Commissioner

Virtual meeting will connect District 3 residents with DeKalb County's top housing officials to discuss affordability, development, and resources.

DECATUR, Ga. — DeKalb County Commissioner Nicole Massiah will focus on one of her key priorities for District 3 — housing and stability — during her September installment of “A Conversation with the Commissioner,” a monthly forum designed to give residents direct access to county leaders and a voice in issues affecting their communities.

The [virtual conversation](#) will be held **Thursday, Sept. 10, at 5 p.m.**

Joining Commissioner Massiah will be Dr. Alan Ferguson, DeKalb County's chief housing officer, and Allen Mitchell, director of Community Development. The discussion will center around the county's response to rising housing costs, affordable housing needs, new development, and programs designed to help residents remain in their homes.

“Housing is about much more than having a roof over your head. It is about stability, opportunity and whether families can afford to remain in the communities they helped build,” Massiah said. “For District 3 to grow, we need housing options for working families, seniors and young people who want to build their futures here. Our residents need to understand what resources are available to them.”

Ferguson has characterized DeKalb's challenge as a broader housing crisis fueled by rising rents and home prices, limited new supply, and increased construction costs. His approach centers on three areas — connection, capacity building, and creation — including better coordination among county departments and outside partners and exploring new financing tools to expand housing opportunities.

Mitchell will discuss Community Development programs and the financial tools DeKalb uses to support affordable housing, including Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and federal HOME funds, which can help finance multifamily housing developments.

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Commissioner Massiah said she also wants the conversation to address a practical concern she frequently hears from residents: How do people access the help that is available?

“We can have programs on the books, but they only work if people know about them and can navigate the process,” Massiah said. “I want residents to hear directly from the people leading this work, ask questions, and leave this conversation with a better understanding of where DeKalb is headed and how these programs can help their families.”

Housing is one of Massiah’s three pillars for District 3, along with economic development and more connected communities. Her approach emphasizes housing that is affordable, responsible investment and development, and ensuring residents have a meaningful role in decisions affecting the future of their neighborhoods.

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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