

MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Subject: Resolution by the Model Atlanta Regional Commission concerning negligent driving.

Introduced by: Communications and Public Involvement Committee

WHEREAS, The Model Atlanta Regional commission wishes to assist the transportation committee in reducing accidents caused by negligence; and

WHEREAS, alcohol-related accident fatalities in Georgia remained at around 25%, creating the need for awareness and communication; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia accident fatality rate remained above the U.S. average; and

WHEREAS, promotion of “ghost outs” and other such community measures, competitions revolving around slogans, and prevention programs have been used effectively in this region to address negligent driving; and

WHEREAS, four counties of the Metro-Atlanta Region have consistently had the highest number of accident fatalities in the top 10 counties for Georgia car accident fatalities; and

WHEREAS, car crashes cost Georgia 7.85 billion dollars in 2000; and

WHEREAS, alcohol was involved in more than 2 out of 10 of Georgia’s car crash deaths; and

WHEREAS, those between the ages of 18 and 25 are more likely to be involved in fatal accidents caused by negligent driving (i.e. texting and driving, drinking and driving, etc.);

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Model Atlanta Commission, in order to stunt the amount of accidents caused by negligent driving, propose that the need for drivers to be responsible on the road (i.e. not drinking while driving, texting while driving, etc.) be communicated through billboards, commercials, on the radio, promoted by ghost-outs, and be used to target those in the projected age range for accident fatalities;

AND, THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that people receive benefits for driving safely based on an increment of 3 months at a time. Therefore, their driving records will be assessed in, ideally beginning in January, the month of March, June, September, and December. In an effort to further increase awareness of these issues, the Model Atlanta Commission also proposes attaching driving brochures to the information from car dealerships, the DMV and car insurance companies.

MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

SUBJECT: **Resolution by the Model Atlanta Regional Commission concerning the region's limited water supply and unfavorable water situation.**

Introduced by: **Communications and Public Involvement Committee**

WHEREAS, The Model Atlanta Regional Commission wishes to increase awareness of Atlanta's limited water supply and the concept of water conservation; and

WHEREAS, one-third of Georgia's population is dependent upon Georgia's smallest river basin; and

WHEREAS, great pressure is being put on Lake Lanier in order to supply Atlanta's water demand; and

WHEREAS, ongoing disputes concerning Lake Lanier's water supply among Georgia, Alabama, Florida, and Congress create an uncertainty about the future availability of Lake Lanier's supply for the residents of the metro Atlanta region; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the region must be informed about the limited supply of water for the region and the consequences of wasting water that is available; and

WHEREAS, many common household practices and daily routines waste approximately 2000 gallons each month; and

WHEREAS, the average person uses approximately 88 gallons of water each day; and

WHEREAS, there are many effective ways to reach the public and raise awareness about regional issues such as water conservation; and

WHEREAS, celebrities and public icons can effectively campaign for increased water conservation in order to raise public awareness;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Model Atlanta Regional Commission launch a public awareness campaign to conserve water and raise awareness about Atlanta's water situation with the help of local celebrities and public icons who have a connection to the Atlanta region.

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that advertisements with celebrities and public icons be shown throughout the region to raise awareness of the water conservation campaign and create public interest in this issue.

MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Subject: Resolution by the Model Atlanta Regional Commission to encourage high school students to engage in community service through incentives at their school.

Introduced by: Community Services Committee

WHEREAS, one of President Obama’s goals is to require 50 hours of community service for each high school and middle school student every year.

WHEREAS, 38% of students who do community service do so through their school.

WHEREAS, community service participation leads to participation with outside organizations—59% of students who volunteered through school volunteered outside of school the next year compared to 48% that did not volunteer through school first of the 3,178 surveyed.

WHEREAS, a University of Michigan Civic Literacy Project showed better school attendance and enhanced academic performance as positive side effects to community service.

WHEREAS, students who engage in civic and community service initiatives often learn skills that last a lifetime.

WHEREAS, schools with incentive-based tutoring programs in Georgia have experienced an increase in passing rates and improved their test scores.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Model Atlanta Regional Commission proposes that Georgia high schools create and offer incentive based community service programs for their students that would benefit the specific school and the immediate community. Schools use these programs to integrate the community with the high school, such as aiding elementary school children, or allowing students to volunteer at assisted living centers.

AND, THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the program’s incentives could be of minimal cost to the school. Schools could offer priority parking, choice of lockers, longer lunch periods, medals at graduation etc, to students participating in the incentive based community service program. This would make service a part of the school’s identity, alongside athletics and academics.

MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Subject: Resolution by the Model Atlanta Regional Commission to help raise awareness about the issues concerning childhood sexual exploitation in and around the Atlanta region.

Introduced by: Community Services Committee

WHEREAS, over 500 under aged girls are trafficked for sex each month, with 100-150 girls being sold each month.

WHEREAS, the average age of a sexually exploited girls nationally is 14, but in Atlanta the average age is 10.

WHEREAS, there are only two shelters in Atlanta that focus on helping victims saved from prostitution recover.

WHEREAS, nationwide, of the 1.5 million children who run away each year, approximately 1/3 become involved in prostitution, and of the girls who run away from home, 90% become involved.

WHEREAS, Atlanta is the number one hub for sex trafficking in the nation.

WHEREAS, many Atlanta citizens are not aware that Atlanta is one of the top cities in the United States for commercial exploitation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Model Atlanta Regional Commission proposes an awareness program, ATE (Assist the Exploited), that will inform the public about the cruelty and exploitation of these children. This program will help inform teenagers and adults about the importance of this issue and ways to which they can help.

AND, THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that ATE could sponsor National Human Trafficking Day on January 11, in which awareness would be taught to colleges and public schools about commercial childhood exploitation.

MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Resolution by the Model Atlanta Regional commission concerning the use of hydroponic gardening in communities throughout the metropolitan area.

INTRODUCED BY: Environment and Land Use Committee

WHEREAS, the Model Atlanta Regional Commission would like to see the use of a hydroponic gardening system to reduce large plots of land needed for traditional gardening; and

WHEREAS, the use of hydroponic gardening would reduce the reliance of a community on importing some of their fresh foods in turn reducing fuel use and pollution; and

WHEREAS, a system such as this only using water and nutrients found in soil will provide constant availability of nutrients and water to plants allowing them to grow 50% faster than in soil; and

WHEREAS, by setting up the system to recycle water and nutrients would result in using as little as 10% the water typically used in agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the cost of such gardening is up to 30% lower than typical gardening and has a yield as much as 50% higher; and

WHEREAS, the use of hydroponic gardening can produce the same amount of crops in 1/5 the space and during any season; and

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Model Atlanta Regional Commission proposes to place a hydroponic garden in metropolitan Atlanta communities to preserve land, and reduce emissions and cost from vehicles typically used to import food goods;

AND, THEREFORE LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the metropolitan Atlanta area be divided into quadrants and a hydroponic gardening facility and distribution center be built near the center of each quadrant such that the fruits and vegetables grown there could be easily distributed to local grocers.

AND, THEREFORE LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the major governments in the Atlanta region should hire specific experts that will have a job of supervising construction of these gardens as well as the maintenance of these gardens. The initial construction should be paid for through grants and donations. Once they are up and running, the hydroponic facilities should be self sustaining.

MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Resolution by the Model Atlanta Regional Commission concerning the conservation of the environment through the institution of recycling programs at schools and the education of young children about recycling.

INTRODUCED BY: Environment and Land Use Committee

WHEREAS, The Model Atlanta Regional Commission hopes to both implement recycling programs at high schools and educate young children about recycling and its benefits by supporting a program that will utilize companies' environment programs to endorse recycling in schools; and

WHEREAS, twenty-three percent of Americans do not recycle, and Georgians each dispose of 4.3 pounds of garbage every day, 40 percent of which could be recycled; and

WHEREAS, recyclable items and resources are being tossed into landfills, many coming from high schools' paper, cans and plastic bottles; and

WHEREAS, children, making up close to twenty-six percent of metro Atlanta's population, have both the advantages of a large majority and influence over others, especially families, as well as a young, forming mind that can easily develop good environmental habits and ideals; and

WHEREAS, the education of children about recycling and the promotion of recycling programs at schools can easily lead to increased recycling and conservation in the population of the Atlanta region; and

WHEREAS, recycling and the metro Atlanta population's conservation of resources and reuse of items can save money over a long period of time; and

WHEREAS, many "green" companies, including Coca-Cola and Starbucks, publicize their recycling efforts and would be willing to support a program to encourage recycling at Atlanta schools;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Model Atlanta Regional Commission proposes a company-sponsored recycling program targeting Atlanta school children in order to increase recycling and obtain benefits associated with the program. Local governments should partner with large companies to implement recycling programs at high schools in the form of a club or an essentially student-run program. The company endorsing the program will help provide start-up funds, begin the programs and oversee the programs as needed. For example, Coca-Cola could donate recycling bins and collect used bottles or cans. The students involved in the program at each school will control the program at the high school, including collecting recycling bins and/or give them to the company, depending on the agreement between the company and the school. The students involved in the program will receive an incentive at the discretion of the company for their time and effort put into this project, such as community service hours.

AND, THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the students of high school programs created will also be responsible for educating students at feeder schools about the importance of recycling, how recycling works and what young children can do. As one of the most essential aspects of this beneficial program, young children will gain knowledge about recycling and form recycling habits which will ultimately benefit the city of Atlanta in the future.

MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Resolution by the Model Atlanta Regional Commission concerning the traffic congestion in the ten (10) county metro-Atlanta Regions

Introduced by: Transportation and Air Quality Committee

WHEREAS, The Atlanta region ranks 3rd nationally in traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, On average, drivers sit in traffic for approximately 60 hours each year; and,

WHEREAS, The Chamber of Commerce has called traffic congestion Atlanta's greatest threat to economic prosperity; and,

WHEREAS, Traffic congestion is becoming a problem to Georgia's overall economy and residents of metro Atlanta; and,

WHEREAS, In metro-Atlanta, the average number of miles driven each day on our roads is expected to increase by about 42 million miles by the year 2025, a distance that is nearly half the distance from the Earth to the sun; and,

WHEREAS, Traffic congestion is the leading cause of respiratory related illnesses in the Atlanta area.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MARC, in order to reduce traffic congestion in the region of metro-Atlanta, and therefore, the amount of air pollution, implement more HOV lanes and HOV exits for the purpose of promoting ride sharing and ensure that all traffic signals are correctly synchronized.

AND, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the region of metro-Atlanta make efforts to promote awareness among residents of metro-Atlanta of the options they have to avoid traffic, such as working from home and ride sharing, as this will reduce the amount of traffic and decrease pollution.

MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Subject: Resolution by the Model Atlanta Regional Commission encouraging the construction and usage of sidewalks in the 10 county Atlanta Region

Introduced by: Transportation and Air Quality Committee

WHEREAS, The Model Atlanta Regional Commission desires to make pedestrians in metro Atlanta safer and provide more attractive places to walk by surveying the metro-Atlanta population and determining the areas where sidewalks are needed; and

WHEREAS, Metro Atlanta has previously been identified as one of the most dangerous large metropolitan area in the country for pedestrians, with two-thirds (2/3) of pedestrian fatalities occurred on neighborhood streets; and

WHEREAS, Due to the danger of crossing the streets without adequate sidewalks, pedestrian injury is the second (2nd) leading cause of death for children aged 5 to 9; and

WHEREAS, Due to the number of miles of sidewalks needing repair, there have been a significant number of injuries reported; and,

WHEREAS, Numerous citizens of Atlanta and the other cities in the ten (10) county metro-Atlanta region have complained of about the lack of sidewalks in their respective communities, allowing for less physical activity and more use of automobiles; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Model Atlanta Regional Commission, in order to increase the number of sidewalks in areas where sidewalks are most needed, proposes that, in the future, sidewalks be constructed based on a "priority-need" basis. A "priority-need" basis is defined as a method of creating [sidewalks] in those areas that are deemed congested with pedestrians, by the initial survey that is to be handed out, rather than in those areas where motor vehicles, such as cars, trucks, mini-vans, etc., are used more.

AND, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any and all contracts that have already been made for the construction of sidewalks will be honored; but, starting January 1st, 2012, no contract can be made without consulting the results of the survey that is to be given as soon as possible.