

**Model Atlanta Regional Commission  
Community Service Committee Resolution #2  
2017-2018**

**Subject:** Resolution by the Model Atlanta Regional Commission to act upon the Model Atlanta Regional Commission Community Service Committee's (2015-2016) resolution of an Adopt-a-Grandparent Program in order to create stronger cross-generational relationships and communication, as well as to attempt to carry out the resolution through action.

**Introduced By:** Community Service Committee

**WHEREAS,** The stigmas and stereotypes assigned to both seniors and youth through society act as unfair and untrue ideals that impede on the connectivity of community relationships. Such misleading assumptions can create a feeling of hesitation towards interactions between generations, further disguising the true and amazing traits of seniors and youth; and

**WHEREAS,** A strong relationship with a member of a different generation can provide mutual benefits to both parties such as learning opportunities, both a mentor and mentee, and a feeling of understanding and congruence with the past and the current, ever changing society. Youth and older adult participants can prosper from a trusting companion and such a relationship can remove a sense of isolation and prove wrong the misconceptions concerning the other generation; and

**WHEREAS,** Both contributors can experience a gain in mental and or physical health, as explained by Bria Health Services. Important social skills and concepts like empathy can be practiced and obtained. Youth community members can feel as though they have a safe person to invest their feelings free of judgement and still receive advice and feedback, which can aid in reducing feelings of anxiety, stress, and depression; and

**WHEREAS,** Older Adults can sustain mental health and cerebral function, in addition to a lower risk at some diseases and physical setbacks. Some may also learn about the current time and trends in technology in a patient and willing environment where they will not

be ridiculed; and

**WHEREAS,** Aligning and partnering with another organization with a similar end goal and want can provide a broader possibility of participants, more resources, and a final ending to be capable of passing along the project to a partner. Including an organization in a related or semi-related field with a similar and shared end goal and want can provide youth and older adults with more diverse opportunities, in addition to including and notifying a larger audience.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Model Atlanta Regional Commission, in order to conjoin and improve relationships and preconceptions on the older adult and youth members of Atlanta's community, propose to implement and act upon the former **Adopt-A-Grandparent** Program, by suggesting ARC'S Aging and Independence Group implement two pilot programs in two separate counties and schools, and collecting data of likely participants and feedback from other students in high schools across Metro-Atlanta. The collection of information and measurements of success from these two programs can feed into the creation of additional programs in high schools across Metro-Atlanta. The completion of the pilot programs could demonstrate how youth and older adults connect, how stereotypes play into communication, and how the two generations relate and interact, and give ARC a basis from which it can expand the work and findings of this program.

**MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Land Use and Community Development Committee Resolution #2**  
**2017-2018**

**Subject:**                   **Resolution by Model Atlanta Regional Commission to promote safety and accessibility throughout the Metro Atlanta community by implementing the use of blue light systems.**

**Introduced by:**       **Land Use and Community Development Committee**

**WHEREAS,**               Crime is an issue which affects every city, and the Blue Light System has proven effective in universities and cities across the nation; and

**WHEREAS,**               In order to create a welcoming environment that is both mobile and accessible to its citizens, Atlanta must increase safety measures in the city's busiest areas; and

**WHEREAS,**               Atlanta residents can save money and reduce their fuel emissions through walking. Residents will also experience a safer feeling fostered by the blue lights; and

**WHEREAS,**               The region can create safe spaces in high risk Metro-Atlanta communities and encourage residents to feel comfortable and responsive in all neighborhoods; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Model Atlanta Regional Commission, in order to increase the level of safety and comfort in Atlanta, proposes the execution of a Blue Light System in and around the city of Atlanta, especially near college campuses or areas which have a large presence of crime;

**AND, THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that the city may partner with universities, which preside in Atlanta, to help fundraise and create a multi-media campaign for the implementation of the Blue Light System, which in turn will foster a feeling of safety within the Atlanta community and its residents or visitors.

**MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Natural Resources Committee Resolution #2**  
**2017-2018**

**Subject:**                   **Resolution by the Model Atlanta Regional Commission to improve education in local elementary schools in matters of environmentalism and sustainable living through the construction of school gardens interactive centers**

**Introduced By:**       **Natural Resources Committee**

**WHEREAS,**               Atlanta has the highest poverty rate of any major city or county in the region, which means children do not have access to regular, nutritional meals; and

**WHEREAS,**               The city of Atlanta has one of the nation's lowest ratios of green space per capita, and local learning gardens would remedy this shortage for children and the public; and

**WHEREAS,**               Metro Atlanta is among the worst urban food deserts in the nation, especially in majority African American neighborhoods, and school gardens could provide fresh and healthy food to locals; and

**WHEREAS,**               In 2016, only 42% of Americans identified as "environmentalists", compared to 78% in 1991.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Model Atlanta Regional Commission proposes a partnership with local elementary schools to build learning-gardens in order to promote awareness on environmental issues like water pollution, air pollution, the use of pesticides, and habitat destruction. This will be achieved through curriculum aimed at interactive lessons, and spanning a large range of subjects to instill values of stewardship and sustainability in the future citizens of Atlanta.

**AND, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the elementary schools will receive help in applying for public and private grants, and further awards if they become nationally recognized Green Ribbon schools (or other environmentally focused titles). ARC will work to identify the most high-risk schools and what their most pressing needs are.

**MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Transportation and Mobility Committee Resolution #2**  
**2017-18**

**Subject:**               **Resolution by the Model Atlanta Regional Commission to increase ridership on public transit, to reduce vehicular congestion in the Atlanta region.**

**Introduced By:**      **Transportation and Mobility Committee**

**WHEREAS,**            The Model Atlanta Regional Commission strives to increase ridership of public transportation, such as Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), Gwinnett County Transit (GCT), and CobbLinc by creating a mobile app geared towards but not limited to millennials and younger generations and;

**WHEREAS,**            The latest research shows that in 2011, U.S. public transportation use saved 865 million hours in travel time and 450 million gallons of fuel in 498 urban areas.

**WHEREAS,**            Every \$1 invested in public transportation generates approximately \$4 in economic returns.

**WHEREAS,**            In 2010, Atlanta public transportation use saved 8,315,000 hours in travel time, 5,850,500 gallons of fuel, and \$201,978,800 in congestion costs

**WHEREAS,**            Users spend 87% of their smartphone time in apps, not in their web browser

**WHEREAS,**            According to the APTA, 15 to 19 year olds only make up 4 percent of all public transit users

**WHEREAS,**            Similarly, 20 to 24 year olds only make up 10 percent of all public transit users

**WHEREAS,**            These two age groups are the largest consumers of mobile apps

**NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED** that the Model Atlanta Regional Commission propose a partnership with MARTA leaders in the development of an application that promotes the use of public transportation and walking. The app, *The GreenLife Transit App*, would give points to users for using public transit, walking, or bicycling to their destinations. Points can be redeemed for gift cards and credit at various restaurants and retail stores. Post a picture to Instagram with the hashtag GreenLife to be put into

GreenLife's monthly sweepstakes for prizes such as concert tickets or hotel reservations. Within the app, persistence would be rewarded, using a tier system. The more points accumulated the higher tier you attain, with higher tiers offering even better rewards. The intended result is an increase in ridership on public transit, especially among teens and young adults. However, the app does not preclude other age groups from participating. We chose to focus on younger generations because we see their large growth potential (and understand them), but we acknowledge the fact that adults already make up a large part of MARTA ridership, so servicing their age group would benefit tremendously. As older generations become increasingly immersed in technology and mobile application, we hope to be able to receive app use from an older demographic, as well.