

MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
Community Service Committee Resolution #1
2016-2017

Subject: Resolution by the Model Atlanta Regional Commission to help local non-profits gain a better understanding of how to secure more unsold food from grocery stores, getting it to food banks and ultimately to needy citizens of the region.

Introduced By: Community Services Committee

WHEREAS, The Model Atlanta Regional Committee has a vested interest in securing a high quality of life and ensuring the health for the region's citizens, specifically helping the too many residents that struggle to consistently secure three meals a day; and

WHEREAS, In the United States alone, there are currently more than \$5.32 trillion of sales in the food industry, with grocery stores responsible for a large portion of the food industry's revenue; and

WHEREAS, Many, if not almost all of these grocery stores' managers are responsible for the daily decision to discard food products that are approaching the "sell by," slightly damaged/wrongly labeled, or items that are not selling due to poor marketing strategies; and

WHEREAS, This results in the disposal of perfectly edible foods to be thrown away every single day, while citizens go hungry and struggle to provide food for their families; and

WHEREAS, Some grocery store managers are well-acquainted with and work closely with organizations such as the Atlanta Community Food Bank; others may not be familiar with what is permissible for them to donate or the organizations that might be available to accept donations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Model Atlanta Regional Commission, recommends the development of a regional plan to better coordinate the rescue of grocery store foods appropriate for donations to ensure that fewer Atlanta region residents go hungry. MARC proposes that, as a first step, ARC circulates a "**Grocery Store Survey**" to select grocery stores around the Atlanta regional area. This survey will contain a variety of questions for grocery store managers, from "what barriers they are facing from donating extra food" to "if they would be willing to participate in food donation if pick-up vehicles came on a regular/scheduled basis." ARC would use the results of the is survey to better understand what barriers exist for grocery store managers from donating extra food to food banks.

AND, THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that ARC would share these results with community leaders and non-profits so that they might use the data and information to work with food organizations and the Georgia Food Industry Association to better policies, logistics, coordination, marketing, and strategic efforts. This, in turn, will lead to greater food available for the needy citizens in the Atlanta region.

MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
Community Service Committee Resolution #2
2016-2017

Subject: **Resolution by the Model Atlanta Regional Commission to promote the ARC's Workforce Solutions program and integrate knowledge of the program into communities around metro Atlanta.**

Introduced By: **Committee Services Committee**

WHEREAS, The Model Atlanta Regional Committee wishes to address the unemployment issue within the region of Atlanta, where 5.2 percent of the population have no occupation as of 2015; and

WHEREAS, Many of these citizens experience greater challenges in securing employment due to their lack of workforce skills which are integral in securing a well-paying, stable position; and

WHEREAS, The Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board, housed at the Atlanta Regional Commission, helps unemployed and underemployed individuals secure stable, well-paying positions by providing skills training, job matching and education; and

WHEREAS, There are many excellent job and skills training entities in the metro region that can provide relevant and useful job education, often at no cost to the customer, and innovative programs such as the On-the-Job Training program that helps business hire new employees and pays for their salary during a period of learning new skills required by the employer; and

WHEREAS, The metro Atlanta region has many partners interested in developing a strong, skilled workforce to retain and attract businesses and these partners are beginning to improve connectivity and collaboration through efforts such as the Metro Atlanta eXchange program; and

WHEREAS, The metro Workforce Boards are restricted from using their funding for direct marketing of their services.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Model Atlanta Region Commission proposes the the “**Promotion through Social Media**” program, which would establish various social media accounts for workforce development partners to inform the public, especially those of a younger age, about the Atlanta Regional Commission’s Workforce opportunities to improve their access to employment and/or job training. The social media websites should vary from Facebook to YouTube. Workforce partners would promote themselves through targeted advertisements on social media. Partners will create videos containing interview footage of people that gained jobs through the aforementioned workforce solution programs, and release them on their various accounts.

MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
Land Use and Natural Resources Resolution #1
2016-17

Subject: **Resolution by the Model Atlanta Regional Commission to promote the use of renewable solar energy for electricity in homes and businesses across the metropolitan Atlanta region.**

Introduced By: **Land Use and Natural Resources Committee**

WHEREAS, One way, the Atlanta Regional Commission desires to improve quality of life of the region's residents is to improve air quality; and

WHEREAS, Much of air pollution is caused by humans results burning fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, natural gas, and gasoline to produce electricity and power our vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Fossil fuels, which are the current source of electric power for most citizens of the region, are detrimental to the environment and are a limited, nonrenewable energy source and solar power is clean, renewable and unlimited; and

WHEREAS, A 30% Federal tax credit and state electricity tax credits and buyback programs are available to both businesses and individuals who convert to solar energy to help offset the solar equipment and installation costs, which have decreased by 62% over the last five years anyway; and

WHEREAS, On average, Atlanta experiences 217 sunny days per year, which exceeds the national average of 205 providing a suitable environment for widespread solar panel usage; and

WHEREAS, Development companies who own the houses will be motivated to help install solar equipment in their houses because solar panels contribute to rising property values and the companies would receive free advertising from people coming to see the solar equipment in the demonstration homes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Model Atlanta Regional Commission, in order to improve air quality through the increased use of renewable solar power as a source of electricity in homes and businesses, proposes that developers dedicate a "solar design house" in each county in metro Atlanta to demonstrate the technology in action and teach residents about the benefits of converting homes and businesses to solar power.

**Model Atlanta Regional Commission
Land Use and Natural Resources Resolution #2
2016-17**

Subject: Resolution by the Model Atlanta Regional Commission to increase participation among high school students in Rivers Alive, an annual waterway clean-up event through the participation of National Honor Society and Beta clubs to address areas with litter challenges along riverbanks, creeks and streams

Introduced By: Land Use and Natural Resource Committee

WHEREAS, Residents in the Atlanta Region get 99% of their water from surface water; and

WHEREAS, 73% of our water comes from the Chattahoochee River or Lake Lanier; and

WHEREAS, Water is a non-replenishable natural resource required for living; and

WHEREAS, Effective watershed management is key to protecting and preserving the Atlanta region's quality of life and economic vitality.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Model Atlanta Regional Commission desires to improve the health and conditions of regional waterways by decreasing the amount of litter on the streets; and seeks to do so by working with Beta Club and National Honors Society chapters to participating in river and lake cleanup events to support in conjunction with the annual Rivers Alive event.

AND, THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that these student leadership groups shall coordinate additional river and lake clean-up days will help preserve and maintain watersheds in the Atlanta region.

MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

**Strategic Relations Committee Resolution #1
2016-17**

Subject: Resolution by the Model Atlanta Regional Commission recommending methods to increase awareness of the Atlanta Regional Commission among young adults in order to help bring younger voices to the regional planning table.

Introduced By: Strategic Relations Committee

WHEREAS, Many young adults in Metro Atlanta are unaware of the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and its role in regional planning initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Young adults typically learn about community issues from parents, teachers and advisors; and

WHEREAS, Students are frequently involved in service learning activities and community involvement through school-based organizations such as Beta Club; and

WHEREAS, Schools often communicate with students through school announcements and newsletters; and

WHEREAS, An informal poll found that the majority of Model Atlanta Regional Commission (MARC) members and their family members were unaware of ARC and its responsibilities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Model Atlanta Regional Commission proposes a partnership with student organizations such as Beta Club, SkillsUSA, and National Honor Society, in two pilot high schools in each of ARC's 10 member counties to encourage 1) student participation in service learning activities that involve regional planning issues and 2) students to take part in ARC public engagement initiatives;

AND, THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the MARC program works with two pilot high schools in each of ARC's 10 member counties to incorporate information about the Atlanta Regional Commission and regional planning activities through school-related media channels such as announcements and newsletters.

MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
Strategic Relations Committee Resolution #2
2016-17

Subject: Resolution by the Model Atlanta Regional Commission to provide enhanced information regarding environmental issues to residents of the Atlanta region through the dissemination of information at public libraries.

Introduced By: Strategic Relations Committee

WHEREAS, In the personal experiences of the members of the Strategic Relations committee, community members are often unaware of the extent of environmental issues affecting our communities, such as the severe 2016-17 drought; and

WHEREAS, According to the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, the Atlanta region experienced below-average rainfall during 2016; and

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, extreme drought conditions persist in much of the Atlanta region; and

WHEREAS, Public libraries in the 10-county metro area serve as gathering places for young adults to learn about ideas and programs on a range of local topics.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Model Atlanta Regional Commission proposes to partner with local public libraries in the Atlanta region to host educational workshops for young people regarding the importance of water conservation and water quality issues;

AND, THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the MARC program will work with public libraries in the Atlanta region and provide collateral materials for distribution that address water conservation and offer ways that young people can help conserve and protect our region's water resources.

MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
Transportation and Air Quality Committee Resolution #1
2016-17

SUBJECT: **Increasing bicycling and public-transit ridership in the metro Atlanta area through collaboration with and support of local bicycle share programs, such as the Relay Bike Share company.**

Introduced By: **Transportation and Air Quality Committee**

WHEREAS, Atlanta is the 9th worst region in America for traffic congestion and continues to get worse, as per a U.S. News study; and

WHEREAS, According to the ARC “Walk, Bike, Thrive” research, Atlanta bike ridership to work is at a low .2% of workers and could be greatly increased; and

WHEREAS, According to the a CDC study from 2011, 33.9% of the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta-GA metro area is overweight, and another 28.7% is obese; and

WHEREAS, Air pollution in the Atlanta region is still a persistent problem; the air is filled with various substances that can cause serious harm to people and the environment, including nitrogen oxide & carbon monoxide emitted from cars; and

WHEREAS, Traffic congestion, with few alternatives, discourages commercial growth and productivity, and discourages companies and corporations from expanding in the metro Atlanta area; and

WHEREAS, Traffic congestion, with few alternatives, discourages new residents moving to the metro Atlanta region and therefore stifles the growth and negatively influences public perception of the region.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Atlanta Regional Commission will assist jurisdictions in metro Atlanta with research or support regarding bike share system feasibility studies, partnership and funding, optimal system and rack locations, and other needs to advance public bicycle share access.

And therefore be it further resolved, that the Atlanta Regional Commission will assist bike share companies (e.g. the Relay Bike Share company) in surveying, using iPads and other electronic devices, to see where new bicycle ‘hubs’ will be located. This initiative will be marketed and shared by Model Atlanta Regional Commission graduates via social media marketing and volunteer hours should be awarded as incentives.

MODEL ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
Transportation and Air Quality Committee Resolution #2
2016-2017

SUBJECT: **Expanding MARTA ridership through aesthetically pleasing stations through public art and enhanced lighting.**

Introduced by: **Transportation and Air Quality Committee**

WHEREAS, The Transportation and Air Quality Committee forecasts that traffic congestion in the Atlanta region will increase in the future; and

WHEREAS, The MARTA system provides an invaluable service to the Atlanta region, including its 48 mile rail system and 38 rail stations; and

WHEREAS, Increasing MARTA transit use should be an important part of a regional transportation strategy to mitigate congestion while providing an option for community members to travel that may not own a car; and

WHEREAS, It is understood that perceptions of cleanliness and safety are important to the success of MARTA and that there are negative perceptions among some of the public regarding the MARTA system; and

WHEREAS, MARTA system should continue to strive to expand the system's appeal to broad segments of the population; and

WHEREAS, MARTA should continue to focus on creating a safe and quality environment for all users of the system, putting increased emphasis on creating more art and lighting for transit stations as both can further involve the community and promote a pleasing experience for riders.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Model Atlanta Regional Commission (MARC), recommends that MARTA implement an expanded MARTA Station Area Art and Lighting Improvement Program to increase use of MARTA through a community building program that utilizes the volunteer efforts of local artists and form a buy-in community mural program where those who participate pay a small fee to contribute to MARTA Station artwork. This program will seek to improve ridership of MARTA stations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MARTA stations should install additional lighting fixtures and amenities for the purpose of establishing as a stronger sense of increased safety and security for all who wish to use public transit.

