



Committee Members
Yterenickia Bell - Chair
Awet Eyasu - Vice Chair
Debra Johnson - Member
Jamie Carroll - Member
Mayor Beverly Burks - Member

3921 CHURCH STREET ♦ CLARKSTON, GEORGIA 3002
(404) 296-6489 ♦ WWW.CLARKSTONGA.GOV

**SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL
MEETING/ PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL
COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

**Thursday, May 25, 2023
7:00 PM - Hybrid**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. INTRODUCTION OF MEETING'S PURPOSE

A. To discuss allocating \$100,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds for resident legal assistance and representation.

Summary:

On April 2, 2019, the Clarkston city council passed a non-discrimination ordinance that was co-sponsored by Councilwoman Cervone, Councilwoman Bell, and Councilman Carroll.

Ordinance 19-437, titled, the CLARKSTON NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE, to amend Chapter 11 of the City of Clarkston Code. The Ordinance adds a new Article VIII which prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, or public accommodation by businesses licensed by the City of Clarkston.

Additionally, the ordinance provides for the belief that that every person living in, working in, or visiting the City has a right to be free from discrimination and that all businesses licensed by the City should be prohibited from discriminating against employees and the members of the public generally based on personal characteristics of an individual as set out more fully in the ordinance's language.

In an effort to utilize ARPA funds, allowing local governments to launch programs to support economic recovery and growth to ensure future prosperity, I propose allocating \$100,000 of ARPA funds to provide residents with eviction diversion assistance, housing discrimination representation, and unfair housing standards legal assistance and support through an agreement with the DeKalb Pro Bono.

If the program is established, residents will be able to apply for a fixed amount between \$500-700 to receive services from the Dekalb Pro Bono by completing an application from the City of Clarkston's administrative office. If the application is approved, the \$500-700 amount awarded will be sent by the City to the DeKalb Pro Bono on behalf of the residents to ensure services are paid for.

This will be a collaborative partnership established through a MOU between the City of Clarkston and DeKalb Pro Bono. The Dekalb Pro Bono Office will identify the services that can be rendered, and residents will need to indicate the issue and services needed on their application with supportive documentation.

This program will allow us to ensure that no residents are enduring discrimination of any form and receive assistance as needed, as it relates to housing matters - unfair treatment or discrimination of any form.

The program would begin after the vote from the city council and be administered fully by the city of Clarkston's administrative office.

Additionally, the Executive Director of DeKalb Pro Bono will be at the SAC meeting and to provide insight on the claims that have been sent to DeKalb Pro Bono and the legal services that they offer to individuals.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. COMMENTS

6. ADJOURNMENT

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION BY VIDEO CONFERENCE

The City of Clarkston, Georgia will conduct this Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2023. The public may participate in the meeting by using the following information below:

- **Dial: 1-404-902-5066**
- **Enter Conference Code: 326629**