

**Affidavit Accompanying Ordinance to Procure Forested Property as Required by
Atlanta City Code Sec. 158-66(b)(3)**

Affidavit of John Dargle

Personally appeared before the undersigned officer duly authorized to administer oaths in the State of Georgia, John Dargle, who under oath deposes and says:

1.

My name is John Dargle. I am over 21 years of age and have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this Affidavit. I voluntarily and freely make this Affidavit of my own personal knowledge for use in the ordinance authorizing the procurement of forested property pursuant to Atlanta City Code Sec. 158-66(b).

2.

I am currently the Commissioner for the City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation.

3.

Pursuant to Sec. 158-66(b), the City Council may authorize the expenditure of Tree Trust Fund money for the procurement of forested property for the City of Atlanta and to preserve the forested property in perpetuity. To be eligible for purchase, the forested property must contain one or more of the following: (i) 80 percent or more canopy cover, (ii) minimum forestation standards of 1,000 DBH inches, and/or (iii) 50 mature trees per acre.

4.

Further, pursuant to Sec. 158-66(b)(3), the commissioners of the Department of City Planning and the Department of Parks and Recreation shall jointly develop a written list of factors and a process for evaluating parcels that may be suitable for acquisition as forested property, and

each commissioner must prepare an affidavit affirming that these factors and process were developed and followed, respectively, in the selection of the forested property which will be procured.

5.

After a review process, the Department of City Planning and the Department of Parks and Recreation recommends that the City purchase the forested property at 0 Forrest Park Rd SE, Fulton County tax parcel ID numbers; 14-0003-LL-017-3, 14-0002-LL-024-0, 14-0004-LL-049-5, 14-0004-LL-053-7 (the "Subject Property"). The Subject Property is in the South River Watershed near Southside Park.

6.

Before the Subject Property was selected, the Department of City Planning and the Department of Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with The Conservation Fund, the Georgia Conservancy, and The Nature Conservancy, Trees Atlanta, and the Georgia Institute of Technology, all came together as a working group to develop a list of factors and a process for the selection of potential sites and began the site selection process.

7.

The working group spent two years identifying and prioritizing the best site candidates for acquisition to achieve conservation of the highest quality tree canopy. The prioritization process included the following:

- A. Using the City of Atlanta Canopy Study, which came from a City of Atlanta contract with Georgia Tech Center for Spatial Planning Analytics and Visualization, the working group performed a GIS-based assessment of largest forested parcels in the City. This work focused on parcels with 80 percent or

greater canopy based on satellite imagery which resulted in (i) approximately 75 wooded parcels of 10 acres or greater and (ii) approximately 25 wooded parcels of 20 acres or greater.

B. Additional qualitative factors were developed and applied to prioritize the potential site acquisitions. These qualitative factors include:

- i. Size;
- ii. Quality of Forest (native species, degree of disturbance, special features);
- iii. Ecological impact of preservation (wildlife corridor, priority streams, watershed protection);
- iv. Connectivity-current (connected to currently preserved forested land?);
- v. Connectivity-future (connected to forested land that could potentially be preserved too?);
- vi. Community benefit-present (proximity to residential population);
- vii. Community benefit-long-term (supported by long-term planning (e.g. City Design));
- viii. Adjacent or near a City Park (forested or not); and
- ix. Adjacent or near Department of Watershed Management Property.

C. The Conservation Fund, a long-time acquisition partner of the City of Atlanta, refined the site list further through discussion with landowners to determine pricing, availability, potential timing of acquisitions, as well as further discussions with City of Atlanta Departments which would be responsible for long-term management.

D. The process also involved site visits and evaluations of individual sites.

8.

After this two-year review process and time spent developing the list of factors, the number one priority acquisition throughout this process was the Subject Property. The following factors made the Subject Property the highest priority forest acquisition:

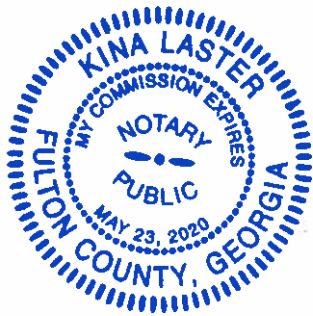
- A. Largest, intact, unprotected forest inside the City of Atlanta;
- B. 221 acres;
- C. 94 percent canopy coverage;
- D. Fair purchase price;
- E. High quality, older growth trees;
- F. Significant threat of development (surplus property likely to be sold for industrial use);
- G. South River Watershed protection;
- H. Almost immediately adjacent to Southside Park and near Department of Watershed Management owned land in South River Watershed (combined areas could create approximately 500-acre area of contiguous greenspace);
- I. Property highlighted as priority for ecological protection and future trail connectivity in the Urban Ecology Framework of the City Design Project; and
- J. In South River Watershed which is a priority focus area for The Nature Conservancy.

9.

Based on the factors and process developed, and the fact the Subject Property exceeds these factors, the Department of City Planning and the Department of Parks and Recreation recommend

that the Subject Property be procured with Tree Trust Fund money and be preserved as protected, forested land.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.





John Dargle
Commissioner Department of Parks and
Recreation

Sworn to and subscribed before me

this 5th day of February 2020.



Notary Public

My Commission Expires May 23, 2020

Affidavit Accompanying Ordinance to Procure Forested Property as Required by

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Affidavit of Tim Keane

Personally appeared before the undersigned officer duly authorized to administer oaths in the State of Georgia, Tim Keane, who under oath deposes and says:

1.

My name is Tim Keane. I am over 21 years of age and have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this Affidavit. I voluntarily and freely make this Affidavit of my own personal knowledge for use in the ordinance authorizing the procurement of forested property pursuant to Atlanta City Code Sec. 158-66(b).

2.

I am currently the Commissioner for the City of Atlanta Department of City Planning.

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C. The Conservation Fund, a long-time acquisition partner of the City of Atlanta, refined the site list further through discussion with landowners to determine pricing, availability, potential timing of acquisitions, as well as further discussions with City of Atlanta Departments which would be responsible for long-term management.

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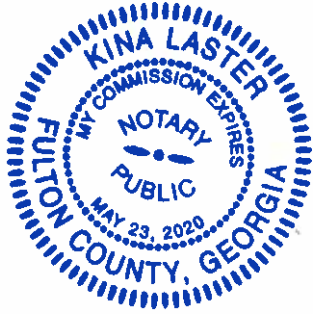
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that the Subject Property be procured with Tree Trust Fund money and be preserved as protected, forested land.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Keane", written over a horizontal line.

Tim Keane
Commissioner Department of City Planning

Sworn to and subscribed before me

this 5th day of February 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kina Laster", written over a horizontal line.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires May 23, 2020