



MIDTOWN PONCE SECURITY ALLIANCE

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ATLANTA'S CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR:

As an organization representing public safety issues affecting many residents and businesses in the Midtown community, the Midtown Ponce Security Alliance urges the Atlanta City Council not to approve any more public funds for the Peachtree Pine shelter, and urge you to do more for the Atlanta Gateway Center instead.

We all want compassionate but well-managed solutions to Atlanta's homeless epidemic, and identify with the basic mission of the Peachtree Pine shelter and its major corporate benefactors. We understand that complex mental health and substance abuse issues drive Atlanta's massive homeless epidemic.

Despite many years of operation, and despite community pressure over the years, the already well-funded Peachtree Pine shelter still has not implemented effective programs, practices, or even sustainable plans to adequately address the deeper issues driving homelessness. They have only demonstrated the ability to warehouse Atlanta's street people rather than in any way promote self-sufficiency or even a meaningful existence for Atlanta's homeless citizens. As a result, Peachtree Pine generates intense pressure on our woefully-limited public safety resources, thereby negatively affecting the quality of life in the greater community.

We fail to see how a cash infusion for a building renovation and improvements for its recreational facilities – rather than case workers, professional staff, and other resources - would significantly enhance service to Atlanta's citizens including the homeless. Furthermore, we have seen only the lack of accountability on the part of the Peachtree Pine shelter for its negative impact on the greater community.

Please take the courageous step of not pumping any more tax dollars into this miserably-failed operation. Improvements in the quality of life and economic development in the community depend upon the discontinuation of Peachtree Pine's negative influence on Atlanta's health and vitality.

With much appreciation for your service to the Atlanta community,

- The Board of Directors of the Midtown Ponce Security Alliance

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