STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0090

Brian P. Kemp
GOVERNOR

September 8, 2021

To: Members of the Atlanta City Council

Greetings,

The Atlanta City Council is in a unique position to support a new training facility for law enforcement and first responders. Increasing training and support for public safety personnel has united all sides of the political spectrum here in the Peach State in the past, and at a time when residents in our capital city are being plagued by a drastic rise in violent crime, I am encouraging the council to promptly approve this facility.

Our capital city and surrounding metropolitan area are facing a crime crisis. That’s why I have dedicated additional state resources, including the Department of Public Safety’s Crime Suppression Unit and millions of emergency dollars in state funding, to support the Atlanta Police Department. This has been a productive partnership and their joint efforts are seeing significant progress with dozens of wanted criminals taken off the streets, hundreds of stolen vehicles recovered, and thousands of arrests and citations for unlawful conduct.

The security of our families and communities hang in the balance, and we must continue to do all we can to support our public safety partners.

The Atlanta Police Department previously stated the proposed facility would boost morale, recruitment, and retention — which are all priorities many of you have echoed in public statements. Atlanta Police Department Deputy Chief Darin Schierbaum is on record saying, “We’re excited, because first class cities have first class investment in their training, in their public safety first responders... training is the lifeblood of any public safety organization.” Respectively, Atlanta Fire Rescue Department First Deputy Chief James McLemore said, “There’s no alternative — we must move forward and get us a training center.”

I appreciate the need to collect input from all stakeholders, and I believe you understand the grave situation violent crime has created in our communities. The time for action is now. Thank you for your consideration of my request, and please let me or my office know if we can be of assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Brian P. Kemp