



SANDY SPRINGS

MAYOR'S OFFICE

June 18, 2018

Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms
City of Atlanta
55 Trinity Avenue SW
Suite 2400
Atlanta GA 30303

Mayor Bottoms:

The purpose of this letter is to begin an open dialogue between the cities of Atlanta and Sandy Springs regarding water delivery operations serving the citizens of Sandy Springs. Many things have changed in Atlanta and Sandy Springs since Atlanta began delivering water service to our area more than 50 years ago.

In the beginning, Fulton County could not, or would not, operate water delivery to the then unincorporated areas, necessitating that Atlanta take the lead. Atlanta entered into agreements between and among Fulton County and many developers, where the developers built the water infrastructure and Atlanta operated per agreement with Fulton County. That same operating infrastructure is the basis for today's operation. However, the water operation and its delivery through the Sandy Springs rights-of-way have grown far more complicated than anyone could have foreseen.

Adding complication to this model is the operation of a system outside the corporate city limits of Atlanta, which is now seen as proprietary and not a governmental function. The informal and loose nature of this arrangement must change to meet the existing and future dynamic changes which are occurring within our city. Sandy Springs is committed to making this operation a governmental function of Sandy Springs.

Sandy Springs has been studying this idea for some time, and we would like to discuss our ideas for purchasing the operation in Sandy Springs. To ensure that we are able to provide a complete and accurate perspective, we believe both sides need more information. To date, Sandy Springs has submitted open records requests, but they have not been fulfilled by the City of Atlanta. Rather than take a combative approach, we are seeking cooperation in information gathering to allow leadership in both cities a transparent review of data and information and further study.



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Sandy Springs would like to complete a comprehensive study, review, and appraisal of the Atlanta water operation within the Sandy Springs city limits. Sandy Springs is willing to bear the costs to fund this study, but will need to pull together information from both sides for use by the Cities or our experts. We would look to Atlanta for cooperation in gathering the necessary information to allow us to go forward with such a study, and we will commit to sharing our findings when this study is complete.

The development of a sustainable water operation in Sandy Springs is the single most important project currently before the City Council in serving the needs of our citizens. We see Atlanta as a neighbor and partner, and view the study and its recommended outcomes as an opportunity to work together towards a mutually agreed upon deal which would benefit both cities and their citizens.

This letter is our formal request to begin discussions on how to mutually construct that proposal. I would like to meet sometime during the week of June 25, 2018. Please let me know which date and time is most convenient.

Sincerely,

Russell K. Paul
Mayor
City of Sandy Springs