



The Franklin Commitments for the City of Atlanta



City Newsbytes

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IN THIS ISSUE

- [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) Funds Available for Atlanta](#)
- [Atlanta Business League Celebrates Super Tuesday](#)
- [Atlanta Makes Strides With Walkable Task Force](#)
- [Atlanta Hosts National Public Works Officials](#)
- [Mayor Franklin Seeking Solutions for Homelessness](#)
- [Stakeholder Spotlight: Colette Steward-Dozier, R.N., B.S.N., Department of Corrections](#)
- [City of Atlanta Seeking Budding Artists](#)
- [Rave Reviews!](#)
- [Weekly Features](#)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Funds Available for Atlanta

One day after Hurricane Ivan, Mayor Shirley Franklin requested disaster relief funds from the state with a resolution declaring a state of emergency in the City of Atlanta. The aid includes grants to pay for temporary housing, home repairs, and other serious disaster-related expenses. Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration will be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

In making the announcement, Mayor Franklin said, "I encourage Atlanta residents and business owners to apply for assistance for damages sustained during Hurricane Ivan."

The Atlanta-Fulton County Emergency Management Center (AFEMA) served as the 24-hour disaster response center. The local emergency management center was activated during the storm to meet the immediate needs of Atlanta residents. Several city departments including, the Office of the Mayor's, the Department of Watershed Management, Department of Public Works, Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Office of Constituent Services, Department of Aviation, and the Atlanta Police and Atlanta Fire Departments staffed the Center.

The effects of the storm include major and minor damage to homes, businesses and government buildings. Most of the damage was caused by fallen trees, flash flooding and power outages. Mayor Franklin said, "The City incurred unanticipated costs as a result of the storm and preliminary figures indicate that it could be \$3 million or more in personnel, services and equipment costs." Some Atlanta areas affected by the storm were a result of infrastructure problems that the Mayor continues to focus her efforts on federal funding for those repairs.

Residents and businesses can begin the FEMA disaster application process by calling 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585 (TYT) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free numbers are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week until further notice. Additional information is available online at www.fema.gov.

The Mayor's Office of Constituent Services will continue to serve storm victims and assist residents with the FEMA process. For more emergency assistance information, please contact Constituent Services at (404) 330-6023 or visit the city website at www.atlantaga.gov.

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Atlanta Business League Celebrates Super Tuesday

The Atlanta Business League (ABL) recently saluted "Women Shaping the Future" at the 20th Super Tuesday Award luncheon. The ABL event honored women of color who exemplify leadership in businesses that help

create a more vibrant Atlanta. Mayor Shirley Franklin was the featured speaker.

"Through Super Tuesday," Mayor Franklin said, "the people of Atlanta can do more than celebrate accomplishments, we can rededicate ourselves to keeping doors of opportunity open for women of all colors. African American women, Asian Women, Latina women, all choose to use their accomplishments as an impetus to pull the next generation up the achievement ladder."

The Super Tuesday awards honor entrepreneurs and professionals who empower other women of color. The Millennium Pacesetter Awards were presented to executive director of the Victim Witness Assistance Program, Brenda Muhammad, and Vicki R. Palmer, Executive Vice President of Financial Services at Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc. Leona Barr-Davenport, ABL president and CEO said, "Both ladies represent the leadership, commitment and excellence that we encourage all of our members to strive to achieve."

The Atlanta Business League was established in 1933 as an affiliate of the National Business League. There are over 450 members in the 50-year-old Atlanta organization.

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Atlanta Makes Strides With Walkable Task Force

Continuing to move forward on the commitment of the Franklin administration to create a safer, cleaner city and a better city for families, Mayor Franklin accepted The Walkable Atlanta Task Force "Plan for a Walkable Atlanta Report." The plan will be the guide for strategies to make Atlanta a more pedestrian friendly place to live, work, play and visit.

"Walking provides the opportunity to reflect," explained Mayor Franklin at the news conference, "in fact, I made the decision to run for mayor during a walk through the community where I have lived for over thirty years. So, safe places to walk are especially important to me."

For years, Mayor Franklin has been an advocate for a more walkable city. She has been vocal in her support of projects that increase pedestrian connections through the city. So this year past January, the mayor appointed a group of citizens to help realize her vision of a more walkable Atlanta. The Walkable Atlanta Task Force has provided several ways to increase pedestrian walk places as well as funding and policy recommendations.

Highlights of the plan include:

1. building pedestrian infrastructure
2. encouraging development that entices pedestrians, such as outdoor dining
3. strengthening traffic laws and enforcement, and
4. connecting pedestrians to public transportation

Mayor Franklin accepted the plan as a challenge to city government to respond to the needs of the people of Atlanta as they take the personal responsibility to lead healthier lives by exploring this great city by foot.

"Initiatives such as the current public education campaign will highlight the city-wide sidewalk improvement plan. It is a way for us to keep Atlanta aware of improvements that will lead us to a city where residents can roll strollers, jog and walk with safety," said Public Works Commissioner David Scott.

Mayor Franklin expressed her gratitude to the Walkable Atlanta Task Force committee chaired by Helen Hatch. Other task force members are Lisa Borders, the new Atlanta City Council President, Charles Brewer, Mark Feinknopf, Sally Flocks, Gil Garrison, Mike Meyer, Caleb Raciot, Buddy Small, Flora Tommie, Brighton West and Saundi Wilson.