



Resolution to Oppose Cop City

Whereas the platform of the Libertarian Party of Georgia states that government force must be limited to the protection of the rights of individuals to life, liberty, and property, and governments must never be permitted to violate these rights; and,

Whereas the platform of the Libertarian Party of Georgia states that governments are unaccountable for damage done to our environment and have a terrible track record when it comes to environmental protection; and,

Whereas the platform of the Libertarian Party of Georgia states that we call for the repeal of all taxes, that we advocate all public services be funded in a voluntary manner, and that government should not incur debt; and,

Whereas the platform of the Libertarian Party of Georgia states that we advocate initiative, referendum, recall, and repeal when used as popular checks on government and that we recognize peaceful protest and civil disobedience as being among the proper and moral means to check, alter, or abolish government; and,

Whereas on September 8, 2021 the Atlanta City Council adopted Ordinance 21-O-0367 authorizing the lease of 381 acres of forested land to the Atlanta Police Foundation for the construction of an 85-acre Public Safety Training Center also known as Cop City; and,

Whereas the South River Forest in DeKalb County where Cop City is to be constructed is one of the largest urban forests in the Southeastern United States and has been referred to as one of the four lungs of Atlanta; and,

Whereas Governor Brian Kemp has vowed to arrest Cop City protesters, over 40 people have been charged with domestic terrorism in connection with protesting Cop City, and one person, Manuel Esteban Paez Terán, has died from being shot 57 times by police; and,

Whereas on May 31, 2023 heavily armed police arrested three activists involved in a mutual aid and bail fund supporting Cop City protesters on dubious charges; and,

Whereas this weaponization of the law against opposition serves to suppress dissent through intimidation; and,

Whereas on June 6, 2023 the Atlanta City Council adopted Ordinance 23-O-1257 authorizing \$31 million of taxpayer funds to be allocated to the construction of Cop City and a lease-back agreement for an additional \$1.2 million per year for 30 years for a total of \$67 million charged to taxpayers; and,

Whereas Cop City would include a mock-up of an urban setting where police will receive military-grade training with military-grade equipment they will use when dealing with civilians in the community, with such police militarization having often resulted in the excessive use of force against citizens and the violation of their rights; and,

Whereas there is a movement to petition that the following referendum be placed on the ballot in November 2023: “Shall the City of Atlanta Ordinance 21-O-0367 authorizing the ground lease of 381 acres of forested land to the Atlanta Police Foundation for the construction of a \$100 million police training facility be repealed”;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Libertarian Party of Georgia:

1. condemns the weaponization of the law against peaceful opposition; and,
2. opposes police militarization; and,
3. endorses voting “Yes” on the proposed referendum to repeal Atlanta City Council Ordinance 21-O-0367; and,
4. opposes Cop City.