

Print Clips

SUBJECT: Watershed Management

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Atlanta police arrest water department inspector on bribery charges

By: Steve Visser

Atlanta police arrested a city worker Tuesday on charges of taking bribes to restore water service to residents who had been cut off, Channel 2 Action News reported.

A resident told Channel 2 that 50-year-old Jesse Pullins, a 12-year veteran of the watershed department, was allegedly taking bribes. The television station reported the “shake down” to the watershed department.

That led to a police investigation and to Pullins’ arrest, Channel 2 reported. Pullins, a senior inspector in the department, was booked into jail for abuse of governmental office for taking money to restore water service to cut-off customers, Channel 2 reported.

One cut-off resident, Marlene Hopkins, worked with police in the sting on Pullins, Channel 2 reported.

“I said ‘Mr. Pullins, how much you charge?’” Hopkins said. ” He said, ‘Just give me 40 dollars.’”

Watershed officials told Channel 2 that they suspected Pullins was working with partners in the scheme.

“We’ll leave that up to APD to continue their investigation and if there are more, we will continue to work to prosecute this,” waters department spokesperson Lilian Govus said.

<http://www.ajc.com/news/news/crime-law/atlanta-police-arrest-water-department-inspector-o/npZf8/>

SUBJECT: Economic Development

Neighbor Newspapers

Council approves creation of pre-arrest diversion design team

By: Staff Writer

At its final meeting of the year, the Atlanta City Council Monday announced it approved during Monday's meeting a resolution, sponsored by District 2 Councilman Kwanza Hall, to create a design team for a pilot initiative to divert non-violent individuals out of the criminal justice system and into the social services they need.

According to a news release, President Barack Obama has said pre-arrest diversion initiatives are a priority for his administration, in line with the blueprint created by the Task Force for 21st Century Policing. In July, Hall was a member of a local delegation invited to the White House for a conference on the topic. In April, he travelled to Seattle with a coalition of organizations to study a successful pre-arrest diversion initiative as its implemented there.

“I am grateful to my colleagues for their support of this legislation,” Hall said. “This design team will give us the opportunity to convene city, county and state leaders for in-depth discussions about pre-arrest diversion initiatives across the country and to begin planning what will work best for Atlanta in a pilot phase. I can’t wait to get to work.”

A number of jurisdictions across the country have found these initiatives save lives and dollars, and improve the quality of life in communities by redirecting people out of the criminal justice system and into life changing services.

Xochitl Bervera, director of the Atlanta-based Racial Justice Action Center, one of the coordinating organizations of the Solutions Not Punishment Coalition, said, “This initiative originated with community members who have seen and lived the harmful effects to arrest-only policies. We are excited that our city council, with the leadership of Hall, has given their full

support for legislation that has potential to transform the city's approach to community safety and public health and shift our approach to mental illness, drug addiction and poverty away from arrests and jail.”

http://www.neighbornewspapers.com/view/full_story/27002181/article-Council-approves-creation-of-pre-arrest-diversion-design-team?instance=all