

## **Print Clips**

### **SUBJECT: The Mayor**

### **WSB-TV2**

### **Atlanta Mayor Keisha Bottoms announces plan to combat human trafficking**

By: Rikki Klaus

ATLANTA - Atlanta's new mayor says she is committed to stopping the spread of human trafficking in the city.

Keisha Lance Bottoms spoke at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport Monday morning where she unveiled a new media campaign.

Channel 2's Rikki Klaus said Bottoms repeated four words three times: "See something. Say something."

The average sex trafficking victim is a 12 to 14-year-old girl, according to Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr.

January has been designated Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

<http://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/atlanta/atlanta-mayor-keisha-bottoms-announces-plan-to-combat-human-trafficking/691004761>

# **SUBJECT: The Mayor**

## *The Atlanta Voice*

### **Mayor Bottoms proposes legislation to eliminate cash bond**

By: Staff Writer

Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms announced Wednesday that her administration has proposed legislation to eliminate cash bonds to secure release from the City of Atlanta Detention Center following an arrest for violation of city ordinances.

Criminal justice reform, including cash bail reform, has long been a key priority for Mayor Bottoms and was a centerpiece of her campaign.

“I am pleased to announce legislation to eliminate cash bonding at the City of Atlanta Detention Center,” Bottoms said in a statement. “With this legislation, we are affirming that people should not be held in jail because they cannot pay bond. We are making a commitment that the City of Atlanta will ensure that no one will be jailed because of their inability to pay.

Requiring cash for bail can result in extended detention for individuals are only accused of low-level offenses and who are presumed innocent under the law. This detention can have significant impacts on individuals’ lives, affecting their ability to maintain jobs and their homes, especially for low-income individuals.

Across the US, many cities, counties and states have recognized that moving away from cash bonding is essential to meaningful criminal justice reform.

The ordinance was discussed in a Public Safety and Legal Administration committee meeting, where stakeholders will have the opportunity to help craft the final legislation.

Bottoms announced last week that her transition team has formed a policy advisory committee to provide guidance and counsel to the Mayor on issues including criminal justice reform, as well as a number of other issues.

The committee will make additional recommendations, beyond eliminating cash bonding, for meaningful criminal justice reform at the municipal level.

<https://www.theatlantavoice.com/articles/mayor-proposes-legislation-to-eliminate-cash-bond/>

# **SUBJECT: Atlanta Airport**

*Fox 5*

## **Growing homeless population at Atlanta's airport sparks safety, health concerns**

By: Morse Diggs

**ATLANTA** - Atlanta police officers working at the world's busiest airport are speaking out about the increase in incidents caused by an ever-growing homeless population.

While the homeless cannot go through the security gates without a pass, that does not stop them from setting up camp across the North and South Terminals as well as the connecting Atrium, which was built as a respite for airline passengers.

FOX 5 News has been reporting on the issue for months, but the stories being told by airport employees seem to be increasing in their intensity to threaten passengers' health and safety.

Officers said men have used the airport floor as a toilet. One man who was totally naked defecated and then decided to lounge on airport furniture, according to police.

Officers said some homeless have open sores and need to be somewhere else other than the airport.

The complaints from police follow a change in enforcement. They said the city of Atlanta law department has instructed the officers not to do the daily sweeps they once did. That change means they cannot enforce basic trespass laws.

Police estimate the homeless population has tripled since the change in policy and the end of the count was before the weather turned cold.

<http://www.fox7austin.com/news/police-officers-at-atlantas-airport-speak-out-about-homeless-population>

# **SUBJECT: Hartsfield-Jackson Airport**

***Fox 5***

## **Security alert renews concerns over airport homeless population**

By: Staff Writer

**ATLANTA** - A security checkpoint at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport temporary shuts down after a homeless man's bag is mistaken for a possible bomb. Now airport staff is calling on city hall to address the growing homeless population. They said if something's not done, there could be more disruptions.

Staff said the homeless population has at least doubled. It has been driven by several factors including a sustained cold period, a major downtown shelter being closed, and a change at City Hall over how to treat the homeless who wind up at the airport. The policy is those police officers can no longer tell them to leave if they don't have any business there.

The latest discussion over homeless at the airport was started last Monday after police ordered the central checkpoint at the airport to be shut down due to an alert over an unattended bag. There was nothing harmful in the bag. Airport staff believes one of the growing numbers of individuals who sleep at the airport walked away from the bag.

"You don't know where their backpacks, their clothing, everything has been," said Vince Champion, Director of the Atlanta Police Union. "The police now are sitting here, now you have to bring in more resources to cordon off that area, make sure the public doesn't show up in there, put our officers in harm's way because you don't know what's going on."

The incident last Monday happened during the morning commuter rush. Police order what is called a soft evacuation of the airport atrium until a bomb-sniffing dog could get in there to check the bag. "It hasn't been determined yet whether it belonged to someone who was homeless, but there was a bag," said Andre Dickens, Atlanta City Council.

Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said Monday afternoon there has been a request from the airport's general manager for more homeless advocates, but there is no perfect solution to the problem. Bottoms also expressed she needed to call all the different parties together to discuss the growing homeless population.

<http://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/security-alert-renews-concerns-over-airport-homeless-population>

# **SUBJECT: The Mayor**

## ***NEWSONE***

### **Atlanta's New Mayor To End Practice Of Jailing People Who Can't Pay Bail?**

By: Clarissa Hamlin

Could Atlanta's new mayor end a discriminatory practice of jailing African Americans who can't pay bail? Two civil rights groups and lawyers are urging Keisha Lance Bottoms to stop wealth-based pre-trial detention in the Atlanta Municipal Court, Law.com reported.

The Civil Rights Corps (CRC) and the Southern Center for Human Rights asked in a letter for Bottoms to publicly endorse the principle that "people who come before the Atlanta Municipal Court should not be confined in custody prior to trial solely because they cannot afford to pay money bail." They are asking the mayor, who promised criminal justice reform and was sworn in as the city's 60th mayor last week, for that endorsement by February 1.

They also have a second request: that Bottoms bring the city's pre-trial policy into compliance with that principle within the first 100 days of her term as mayor. Groups envision that the court will implement a "constitutionally compliant post-arrest system," Georgia Pol reported.

"Your promise to champion criminal justice reform can be put into concrete form by your support of these principles of fairness and equality in the administration of Atlanta's criminal legal system," a statement in the letter reads.

Atlanta's jails function on a "bail schedule" that lists a pre-set sum for each minor offense and automatically requires money as a condition of release, with no judicial review, under the municipal court's current policy. People who can pay bail are immediately released after booking. However, those who can't remain detained. As a result, overcrowded city jail cells are filled with people charged with misdemeanors and ordinance violations solely because they cannot pay bail.

The city relies on this wealth-based detention despite the high costs of it. Many of the city's most vulnerable citizens are harmed and locked up for no credible reason before trial, painting a picture of discrimination against community members of color. Criminal justice advocates are hoping that Bottoms will help to change this distorted picture.

<https://newsone.com/3768209/keisha-lance-bottoms-atlanta-mayor-bail-jail-policy-fight/>

# **SUBJECT: The Mayor**

*Fox 5*

## **Police need help solving violent crimes against women in Buckhead**

By: Morse Diggs

**ATLANTA** - Atlanta Police said the public may be helpful in providing information or home surveillance video that could lead to the thieves who have attacked three women since late December.

In one of the incidents, a homeowner near Ansley Mall was victimized twice. Her purse was snatched at the mall. And a few days later, someone forced his way into the home of the 91-year-old woman and stole cash.

Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms has been briefed on the incidents, and she too is asking neighbors and she too is asking neighbors to assist.

The mayor said that information that may seem irrelevant could be helpful.

She's talking about individuals who may have been loitering in the affected neighborhoods and may turn out to fit the general description detectives are working with.

Police have several leads but also have received conflicting descriptions of suspects – including different races.

<http://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/police-need-help-solving-violent-crimes-against-women-in-buckhead>