
DEKALB COUNTY

W. Burrell Ellis, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEKALB CEO TAKES ACTION TO RESTORE JUDICIAL AND FINANCIAL INTEGRITY AT RECORDERS COURT

Grand Jury Subpoenas Court Officials for Documents

DECATUR – Chief Executive Officer Burrell Ellis initiated immediate steps on yesterday to address serious systemic problems with the operational processes of DeKalb County Recorders Court following Grand Jury subpoenas that were served on Chief Judge R. Joy Walker and Chief Clerk Joyce Head for documents related to the court’s alleged failure to comply with State reporting guidelines, make proper contributions to the State, and properly account for monies. In taking these actions, CEO Ellis also cited consultants hired by the county last year that reported that there may be an estimated \$20 million in uncollected revenue since 2000 in Recorders Court.

“In light of these actions taken by the Grand Jury, and outlined in the consultant’s report, it is important that county government take immediate action to begin the process of re-establishing the DeKalb County Recorders Court’s judicial and financial integrity and its ability to fulfill its responsibilities to the county and its citizens,” said CEO Ellis. “While the county should always make every effort to operate efficiently, uncollected revenue has an even greater impact now during this period of economic uncertainty.”

CEO Ellis has directed the follow actions be taken:

- **The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) will be asked to conduct a financial audit to analyze the Recorders Court’s polices and procedures**
- **The county will engage a consultant, on a short-term emergency procurement basis to assist in the collection of outstanding revenue from defendants who have failed to appear before the court**

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- **The county's Public Safety Director, William Z. Miller will be responsible for supervising the court's employees and the audit and revenue collection engagement process**

The subpoenas to officials at Recorders Court comes on the heels of District Attorney Gwen Keys Fleming's indictment last week of three former employees and several accomplices allegedly involved in ticket fixing. These allegations have prompted the Grand Jury to launch a civil inspection and investigation of the court's operations.

For more information, please visit www.yourdekalb.com.

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