
DEKALB COUNTY

W. Burrell Ellis, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CEO ELLIS ANNOUNCES DEPUTY COO APPOINTMENT

Dr. Jabari Simama to Lead Development for DeKalb County

DECATUR – DeKalb County Chief Executive Officer Burrell Ellis announced the appointment of Dr. Jabari Simama as the Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Development.

“Development is important to the economic vitality of DeKalb County,” said Ellis. “By making DeKalb even more competitive and attractive on a global scale, we ultimately create employment opportunities and improve the quality of life for our citizens. Jabari’s background and credentials are aligned with the vision our administration has for overall management of our development department. I look forward to his leadership in this role for DeKalb County.”



“I look forward to serving the county and ensuring that DeKalb’s economic and community development programs are second to none,” said Simama.

Simama comes to the county with over 33 years of development experience in the public and private sector; government; higher education; and more than 20 years experience in strategic planning. Additionally, Simama has raised more than \$28 million during his 33 years of service, attracting sponsorship dollars that encouraged public/private partnerships. Recently, he served as the liaison for federal stimulus funding at Benedict College under the leadership of President Dr. David H. Swinton.

As Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Development, Simama will be responsible for all of the county’s development departments including: Planning & Development; Economic Development; Community Development; Human Services; GIS; and Workforce Development.

Simama graduated from the University of Bridgeport in Bridgeport Connecticut, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. Simama also earned his masters from Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University) and his Ph.D. from Emory University.

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