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**DEKALB COUNTY**

**W. Burrell Ellis, Jr.**  
Chief Executive Officer



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CEO ELLIS ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS TO THE DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS**

**DECATUR** – CEO Burrell Ellis announced the appointment of realtor Bobbie Kennedy Sanford and retired businessman Isaac Blythers to serve as members of the DeKalb County Board of Ethics. The Board is charged with interpreting the Code of Ethics adopted by the county, applying sanctions to those in violation of the Code, and issuing advisory opinions defining appropriate behaviors according to community standards, as reflected in that Code. When complaints of ethics violations are registered against the CEO, Commissioners or other county employees or appointees over whom the Board of Ethics has jurisdiction, the matter is addressed by conducting hearings on the complaints. The newly appointed members will each serve a seven year term.

“I welcome the expertise Bobbie Kennedy Sanford and Isaac Blythers bring to the Board of Ethics. Their service, along with the service of the current members, will assure that accountability in county government is upheld in DeKalb,” CEO Ellis said.



**Bobbie Kennedy Sanford** is a long-standing resident of DeKalb County. She and her late husband, Commissioner Porter Sanford, III founded Sanford Realty, the first minority-owned real estate company in DeKalb in 1965. Bobbie is currently the broker of Coldwell Banker Sanford Realty Company, Inc. and has a long-standing history of civic-mindedness and dedication to community service. She has received numerous awards and recognitions from a variety of business and civic organizations. In addition to previously being named Broker of the Year, Bobbie is a charter member of Leadership DeKalb, a founding member of 100 Black Women of DeKalb, Founding Member and Past President of Stone Mountain Jack and Jill of America, Advisory Committee member of the Georgia Real Estate Commission Education, member of the DeKalb Development Advisory Board, former member of the Transition Team for CEO-Elect Burrell Ellis and a member of the DeKalb Life Long Senior Task Force and the Spring Valley Civic Association. Bobbie has a BA degree in Education and French from Clark Atlanta University (formerly Clark College).

“I am always pleased to serve my community. I see this opportunity to serve on the Board of Ethics as an extension of my service to my community,” said Bobbie Sanford.

**(more)**



**Isaac Blythers** is the former President of Atlanta Gas Light Company & Chattanooga Gas Company where he was responsible for the regulated utility operations serving 280 communities and 1.5 million customers in Georgia and Tennessee. After retirement he served as Interim Executive Director of The Tubman African American Museum in Macon, Georgia from August 2005 to March 2006. Isaac received his BS in accounting from Morris Brown College. A graduate of Stone & Webster Management Development Course, he has also received Industry Management course credit through Georgia State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Houston, Baylor University and Texas A&I University.

Isaac's current civic and community involvement includes serving as a board member for 100 Black Men of Atlanta, board member of the Tubman African American Museum, life member of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, member of the Homelessness Taskforce of Metro Atlanta, board member of the Senior Citizens Services Foundation, Co-Chairman of the Tubman African American Museum Capital Campaign, board member of the Buckhead Coalition, board member of the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy, and volunteer with the Woodruff Arts Center Annual Campaign. Personal achievements and honors include: Corporate Diversity CEO Award (2004), Outstanding Georgia Citizen (Secretary of State, 2004), Platinum Award, Cooperative Energy Development Program (Fort Valley State University, 2004), Men Looking Ahead Achievement Award (2003), Morris Brown College Alumnus of the Year (1992), and Who's Who in Black Atlanta (2003 & 2004). An avid golfer, Isaac resides with his wife Melody in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

On being appointed to the DeKalb County Board of Ethics, Isaac said, "Our form of government only works when our citizens are willing to participate by giving up their time."

The Board of Ethics positions that Bobbie and Isaac are assuming were formerly held by Aubrey T. Villines, Esq. and Veronica Higgs Cope, Esq.

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