CITY OF ATLANTA

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April 18, 2006

The Honorable Karen C. Handel, Chairman
and the Fulton County Board of Commissioners
Fulton County Government Center
141 Pryor Street. S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Chairman Handel and the Fulton County Commissioners:

I am writing to express the City of Atlanta's interest in pursuing our purchase of the Fulton County's interest in the Bellwood Quarry. It is my understanding that a resolution authorizing the sale of the quarry to the City of Atlanta for $15 million will be introduced at your April 19, 2006 meeting. If this resolution is passed by the Commission, the City is prepared to move forward at that price.

The opportunity to create a park at this scale - one that can serve the City, the County and the entire metro region - may never again present itself. In acknowledgement of the uniqueness of this opportunity and the hard work and effort that the County has put into these negotiations, the City is willing to pay $15 million, a substantial premium above the appraised value.

The development of the Westside Park will constitute one of the largest investments in the region's environmental infrastructure in our lifetime; we should not miss this opportunity. I urge the Fulton County Commission to approve this sale and to continue the partnership we have forged to execute our joint vision for this property and the BeltLine as a whole.

As I have previously communicated to you, the availability of beds in the City's Detention Center is dependent on our own needs and the commitments we have made to the federal government. We cannot at this time offer any more than the 175 beds already committed. Please be advised that I have, at the request of the County, asked the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Service to consider whether that agency has any flexibility in its needs.

I am interested in and committed to working with the County during the remainder of my term in office to assist the County with our joint criminal justice needs. However, now is the time to act on the sale of the quarry or we risk losing this rare chance to transform our community.

Yours for Atlanta,

Shirley Franklin