A RESOLUTION BY COUNCILMEMBER MARY NORWOOD

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE MAYOR'S LETTER TO THE U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT AND REQUESTING THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION ENCOURAGE THE APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY ALTERNATE SPACES FOR JAIL BEDS CURRENTLY IN THEIR USE AT THE ATLANTA DETENTION CENTER, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Fulton County Blue Ribbon Criminal Justice Commission has recommended that Fulton County acquire the vacant Atlanta Municipal Court building along with jail beds at the adjacent Atlanta Detention Center in order to alleviate overcrowding at the Fulton County Jail; and

WHEREAS, on December 30, 2005 the Fulton County Board of Commissioners offered to purchase the Municipal Court and lease beds at the Detention Center; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2006 Mayor Shirley Franklin conveyed to Fulton County a counter-offer to sell the Municipal Court with certain conditions and lease jail beds based on availability if the existing contracts with the federal agencies could be canceled; and

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2006 Mayor Franklin conveyed to Fulton County an offer to purchase Bellwood Quarry for conversion to a park for the Beltline project, and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2006 the County conveyed to Mayor Franklin an offer to sell the Bellwood Quarry contingent on also leasing 500 jail beds; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2006 Mayor Franklin communicated by letter to the County that the City has obligated 350 beds to the United States Marshals Service (USMS) and 150 to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE), but "should the Federal agencies choose to relinquish their beds, the County would be welcome to them; and

WHEREAS, on April 18, 2006 Mayor Franklin sent a letter to the Field Office Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Atlanta asking him to consider a review of ICE's needs and the possibility of finding alternate space for some or all of its allocation within the City Detention Center; and

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2006 the Fulton County Board of Commissioners approved the sale of the Bellwood Quarry subject to certain terms and conditions, and

WHEREAS, on April 21 the County conveyed these terms and conditions to Mayor Franklin and City Council, which include a request to the City to urge the

Immigration and Customs Enforcement to seek alternate space and also urged the Mayor and the City Council consider ways to address the City's Agreement with the U.S. Marshal Service to terminate its bed allocation and enter into a contract with the County for the same number of beds and at the same rate, thus ensuring the City will have continued revenue.

BE IT THEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Atlanta City Council supports Mayor Franklin's letter of April 18, 2006 to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency and requests that Senator Saxby Chambliss, Senator Johnny Isakson, Congressman John L. Lewis, Congressman Tom Price and Congressman David Scott contact the appropriate federal officials to encourage them to identify alternate space for their allocation of jail beds at the Atlanta City Detention Center currently used or reserved for Immigration and Customs Enforcement so that those beds can be leased to Fulton County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the County's request that the contract with the U.S. Marshals Service be discussed for review and recommendations.