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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioner Steve Bradshaw Proposes Major Change in DeKalb County's Budgeting Process

DECATUR, Ga. — In a recent meeting of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, District 4 Commissioner Steve Bradshaw announced a proposed change to the timeline for the county's budgeting process. This proposal had previously been submitted to the chair of the Charter Review Commission for consideration.

DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurmond issued an executive order on March 25, 2019, for a comprehensive review of the Organizational Act of DeKalb County to ensure that the government of DeKalb County is representative of its citizens and responsive to their needs and demands. The Charter Review Commission is charged with reviewing the Organizational Act, harmonizing its parts, and recommending changes to achieve the best delivery of services to the citizens.

"Since taking office, I have held the view that the current budget process is flawed in that the Board of Commissioners receives the budget proposal from the CEO on December 15 of each year, which is right before the holiday season," Commissioner Bradshaw said. "Upon returning after the holidays in early January, the Board of Commissioners then has less than two months to consider a \$1.5 billion budget. Additionally, a new fiscal year would have already started without an adopted budget in place.

"These flaws became even more apparent to me when I became chair of the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee earlier this year," Commissioner Bradshaw continued. "Since my chairmanship of this committee coincides with the work of the Charter Review Commission, it struck me as the appropriate time to advocate for this change.

"In a nutshell, my proposal calls for the CEO to submit his proposed budget to the Board of Commissioners by September 15 of each year," Commissioner Bradshaw said. "Then the Board of Commissioners would have until December 31 to adopt the budget, and we would start the next fiscal year with an adopted budget in place. I am very pleased that the Charter Review Commission has given my proposal serious consideration, and I commend them for their public service. I look forward to seeing their final recommendations."

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