

Notes from Meeting held at City Hall January 11, 2007

Topic: New Year's Eve and Traffic Rerouting for Downtown Special Events

Major Calvin Moss, Commander of Special Operations and Street Closings

Imara Canady, City of Atlanta Special Events Coordinator

Leigh Davis-Turner, City of Atlanta Special Events

Jay Tribby, Assistant to Councilman Kwanza Hall

Whitney Rusert, ADNA President

- There was miscommunication between primary planners and those who needed the information but it was not intentional. According to the city, Central Atlanta Progress was heavily involved in the Peach Drop planning process and was intimately familiar with the plan for traffic re-routes and pedestrian checkpoints. That information was intended to reach businesses and residents.
- Future notice will be directed primarily to NPU-M but also to others based on a list provided by Jay Tribby (Kwanza Hall's assistant) and the city will also publicize the plan via print and broadcast media in advance of the event.
- Peach Drop will continue to involve Woodruff Park while the Peachtree Bridge is under construction due to congestion created by the closure (unless a new site is chosen). Although the city cannot say this with certainty, it will be among the possibilities discussed for the 2008 Peach Drop. The city will begin internal meetings next week and will be working with Underground to hammer out the '08 plan.
- Traffic restrictions will have the same rerouting as this year. This is to allow reaction time should a vehicle pass unauthorized toward the pedestrian checkpoints and for pedestrians should an emergency require evacuation from Underground. From a public safety standpoint, it is imperative to eliminate (or at least severely limit) vehicular traffic from heavy pedestrian areas. If the 2008 Peach Drop occurs as this year (including Underground and Woodruff Park) the city would expect the traffic/pedestrian plan to be rather similar. This would be subject to change based upon planning efforts and potential alternatives.
- Pedestrian checkpoints will again be one block east and west of Peachtree, north to Ellis and south to MLK assuming the same scheme for the Peach Drop.
- Residents of the traffic-restricted area will be allowed passage with minimal disruption and patrols will be advised of their need to have access. Officers were advised to be flexible with those claiming legitimate needs for access.
- Guests and residents will be advised to enter at designated vehicle entry points. Walton/Spring was suggested and the city will work with ADNA to plan the best access for residents.
- All pedestrians will be searched within the pedestrian checkpoints to limit the introduction of dangerous items into the venue (glass bottles and containers, explosives, firearms, knives in violation of the City knife ordinance). It important to note that persons were not and would not be subject to search and that bag checks (only) were a condition of entry. Entry will be denied if uncooperative.

With a permitting process that requires 90 days before the event, the city agreed that

they shouldn't have any trouble getting at least 30 day's notice to plan for the neighborhood impact.

Whitney Rusert,
ADNA President