

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Wednesday, July 12, 2023

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**City of East Point Council Make First Step to Return Health Care to Residents**

**EAST POINT, GA** – The City of East Point has taken a significant step towards improving healthcare access for its citizens. At the June 20, 2023, Regular Business Meeting, Councilman Joshua B. Butler, IV along with Councilmembers Stephanie Gordon, Lance Robertson, Josette Bailey, and T. Starr Cummings voted to create a Hospital Authority Board. With the closing of WellStar AMC South, the South Metro Area does not have a hospital, leaving more than 200,000 people without emergency healthcare access. This issue also poses a problem for the world’s busiest Airport, with the nearest hospital nearly 10 miles away in downtown Atlanta.

The Hospital Authority Board will work to bring a healthcare facility back to the community, which has long been without adequate medical services. The move is a crucial one, as many residents have had to travel long distances to receive medical attention. The Hospital Authority Board will ensure that the community has access to quality care. This decision reflects the city's commitment to the health and well-being of its citizens, and it is a positive step towards a brighter future for East Point.

**“We have made the first step to return health care to the more than two hundred thousand residents who do not have access to a hospital.” said East Point City Councilman, Joshua B. Butler, IV**

A unique and exciting solution to the healthcare issue was proposed by Councilman Joshua B. Butler, IV. First, state law allows for the creation of a Hospital Authority. This will be done with neighboring cities and the county. Next a public private partnership will occur with the Hospital, County, State and Federal Government along with private funding from an experienced Wall Street company. A professional hospital management company specializing in turning around under-performing hospitals will be hired. In addition, the mission of the hospital will be augmented to ensure a profit center is added to the services offered. This is a tremendous social and economic value for the city and state.

**About The City of East Point:** The City of East Point is approximately 14.7 square miles with a population of over 38,000. Located southwest of Atlanta, East Point is conveniently located minutes away from Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. This quaint urban community’s prime location, numerous retail, and great restaurants make it an attractive place for a “live-work-play-shop-stay” environment because there’s no point like East Point. For more information about the City of East Point, visit [www.eastpointcity.org](http://www.eastpointcity.org). Also like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/cityofeastpoint/](http://www.facebook.com/cityofeastpoint/) and follow us on Twitter @cityofeastpoint, and Instagram @cityofeastpoint.

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