

2024 ABL CONGRESS SPONSORS

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DeKalb County
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Georgia Chamber of Commerce
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*“Driving Economic Equity:
Shaping the Future”*

THE 17TH ANNUAL CONGRESS ON THE STATE OF BLACK BUSINESS IN METRO ATLANTA



ATLANTA BUSINESS LEAGUE

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024
8:00AM-3:00PM**

DeKalb Conference Center
495 North Indian Creek Drive • Clarkston, GA 30021

7:30 AM Event Check-In and Exhibits

8:00 AM Breakfast

8:25 AM Welcome

- Leona Barr-Davenport, President & CEO, Atlanta Business League



Leona Barr-Davenport

8:30-8:55 AM Outlook on the Infrastructure Bill, Workforce & Small Business in Metro Atlanta

- The Honorable Michael Thurmond, CEO, DeKalb County



Michael Thurmond

9:00-10:00 AM Driving Economic Equity: Black Business and Community Development

- The Hon. Kirkland Carden, District 1 Commissioner, Gwinnett County
- The Hon. Lisa Cupid, Chairwoman, Board of Commissioners, Cobb County
- The Hon. Carlotta Harrell, Chairwoman, Board of Commissioners, Henry County
- The Hon. Oz Nesbitt, Chair, Board of Commissioners, Rockdale County
- The Hon. Michael Thurmond, CEO, DeKalb County
- The Hon. Jeff Turner, Chair, Board of Commissioners, Clayton County

Moderator: Al Edwards, CEO & President, CERM



Kirkland Carden Lisa Cupid Carlotta Harrell Oz Nesbitt Michael Thurmond Jeff Turner Al Edwards

10:05-11:05 AM Driving Economic Equity: Real Estate Development and Housing

- Eddy Benoit, CEO, The Benoit Group
- Shea Johnson, Director, Georgia Field Office, HUD
- Terri Lee, President & CEO, Atlanta Housing
- Sarah-Elizabeth Langford Reed, Executive Director, Development Authority of Fulton County
- Pete Walker, President & CEO, Housing Authority of DeKalb County

Moderator: Eric Pinckney, Principal, Commercial Real Estate Division, The Integral Group, LLC



Eddy Benoit Shea Johnson Terri M. Lee Sarah-Elizabeth Langford Reed Pete Walker Eric Pinckney

11:10-12:10 PM

Driving Economic Equity: DE&I

- Tasha Allen, VP, Talent Management & Diversity, Georgia Chamber of Commerce
- Roosevelt Giles, President & CEO, EndPoint Ventures, LLC
- Stacey Key, President & CEO, Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council
- Valerie Nesbitt, Director Supplier Inclusion & Sustainability, Norfolk Southern
- Julia Settles, Business Diversity Manager, Southeast Region, Burns & McDonnell
- Rodney Strong, CEO, Griffin & Strong, PC

Moderator: Donna Ennis, Director, Diversity Engagement & Program Development, Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute



Tasha Allen Roosevelt Giles Stacey Key Valerie Nesbitt Julia Settles Rodney Strong Donna Ennis

12:15-12:45 PM

Lunch

ABL Chairman Remarks

- Ryan Wilson, Co-Founder & CEO, The Gathering Spot



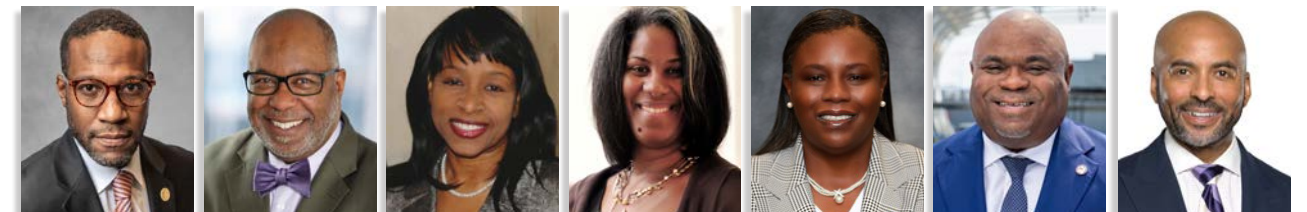
Ryan Wilson

12:45-1:45 PM

Driving Economic Equity: A Look into Infrastructure

- Solomon Caviness, Commissioner, Atlanta Department of Transportation
- Doug Hooker, CEO, Connector Park Foundation
- Maria Houser, Director, CIP & Environmental Compliance, DeKalb County
- Kimberly King, Director, Equal Employment Opportunity, GDOT
- Dr. Victoria Seals, President, Atlanta Technical College
- Walter Vinson, Assistant General Manager, Business Diversity & Government, HJAIA

Moderator: Keith Parker, President, Goodwill of North Georgia



Solomon Caviness Doug Hooker Maria Houser Kimberly King Dr. Victoria Seals Walter Vinson Keith Parker

1:45-3:00 PM

Visit Exhibits, Interviews

17th Annual Congress Planning Committee

Honorary Chair: The Honorable Michael Thurmond, CEO, DeKalb County

Chair: Al Edwards, CEO & President, CERM

Co-Chairs: - Alice White Bussey, Owner, Bussey Florists & Gifts

- Ernest Ellis, President & CEO, FS 360, LLC

- Nykita Hurt, Diversity Program Manager, HNTB

- Andrella Kenner, Founder, CEO & President, CI² Aviation Inc.

- Geoffrey Loftin, Equitable Economic Development Program Manager, Decide DeKalb Development Authority

- Lawrence Sharp, Owner & Broker, Lawrence Sharp Realtors LLC