

**March 23, 2019**

**Laurel Ridge Shamrock Civic Association (LRSCA)**

***For Immediate Release***

**Survey Indicates Residents of LRSCA Neighborhood Wish to Remain Unincorporated**

DeKalb County, GA - A survey of the residents of LRSCA neighborhoods indicates an overwhelming preference to remain unincorporated. Residents of these longstanding, established neighborhoods include many Emory and CDC employees, original owners, and younger families, among others. The same survey was also distributed by eight other central DeKalb neighborhoods: Mason Mill, Victoria Estates, Medlock Park, Clairmont Heights, North Briarcliff, Leafmore, Briarcliff Woods East, and Lindmoor Woods.

Laurel Ridge Shamrock was included in the 2014 proposed maps for the city of LaVista Hills. While the area is not currently included in the boundary for the proposed city of Vista Grove, it is possible that boundaries might change, and other cities might be interested in annexing some or all of our neighborhoods.

A significant majority of respondents (70%) prefer remaining unincorporated over becoming a part of a new city; a smaller, yet still significant majority of respondents (60%) prefer remaining unincorporated over becoming part of an existing city. Residents in nearby Medlock Park, Mason Mill, and Victoria Estates also concur with this choice.

If remaining unincorporated cannot be preserved, then 63% of the residents in Laurel Ridge Shamrock prefer to be annexed into an existing city versus a new city. Decatur was the top choice among existing cities for all surveyed except Briarcliff Woods East. Tucker was the second choice of Laurel Ridge Shamrock, along with Lindmoor Woods and Medlock Park.

Because City of Atlanta does not border any of the Laurel Ridge Shamrock neighborhoods, the data acquired concerning Atlanta in this survey is not currently relevant to us.

The neighborhoods conducted the survey in order to provide local leaders with a better understanding of residents' perspectives on new city initiatives and potential annexation. The Mason Mill Civic Association in coordination with the Citizens of Victoria Estates issued the survey, which they passed on to us and other civic associations. It was designed by Dr. Patrick Noonan, an emeritus professor of decision sciences at Emory University's Goizueta Business School.

## **Methodology**

The survey was distributed by email through the lists maintained by LRSCA, with 12% responding. A copy of the survey and results are attached.

The results also have been distributed to the Vista Grove cityhood initiative, DeKalb Strong, DeKalb Municipal Association, Emory University, members of the DeKalb legislative delegation, the Georgia House of Representative's Governmental Affairs committee, DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and CEO, the Civic Association Network (CAN), other local elected officials, and all civic/neighborhood association leaders.

We will keep you informed of any developments regarding cityhood and/or annexation.

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