



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ATLANTA'S POLICE OFFICERS AND FIRE FIGHTERS HOST 2009 MAYORAL CANDIDATE PUBLIC SAFETY FORUM

On Thursday, July 23 at 7pm, the four top candidates to be Atlanta's next mayor will meet at Georgia State University to debate their visions for public safety in Atlanta. Whichever candidate wins election in November will inherit public safety agencies that are poorly equipped to perform their missions to protect life and property in the regional capital of the Southeast.

Atlanta's Fire Rescue and Police Departments both suffer from severe staffing shortages, high turnover and low morale due to chronically below-market compensation. Due to deep budget cuts in both departments, response times have increased dramatically and a series of high-profile incidents have exposed a lack of resources necessary to effectively cope with rising crime, fires, and disasters.

As voters demand that the public safety be restored, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers and the International Association of Fire Fighters will host the 2009 mayoral candidates in a forum focused on the challenges of making Atlanta a safe and secure city.

Local IAFF president Jim Daws commented, "Voters need to hear first-hand that these candidates understand the challenges facing the men and women who protect Atlanta and that they have a plan to provide them with the resources necessary to effectively perform their duties."

Local IBPO president Scott Kreher stated, "The Atlanta Police Department will be facing unprecedented challenges over the next several years and it will take an extraordinary leader in the mayor's office to ensure our citizens get the quality police force they deserve and pay for. I hope all Atlanta voters will come out and participate in helping us choose that mayor."

The Public Safety Forum will be moderated by Fox5's Morse Diggs and the candidates will answer questions from police officer and fire fighter representatives and debate each other on their responses. There will also be questions from the audience.

The Atlanta Mayoral Public Safety Forum is open free to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis, and the media are encouraged to cover the event.

**WHAT: ATLANTA MAYORAL PUBLIC SAFETY FORUM**  
**WHERE: GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM,**  
**44 COURTLAND STREET**  
**WHEN: THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2009 AT 7:00 PM**

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