

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FULTON COUNTY

APR 26 2010

GA

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE FULTON *
COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER COMPLEX *

SHOW CAUSE ORDER

Whereas, the Fulton County Justice Center Complex (the "Complex") is a facility housing most of Fulton County's Courts – Superior, State, Magistrate and Probate—and a number of Fulton County's justice system partners including but not limited to the Clerk and the District Attorney;

Whereas, the Complex consists of three different but connected buildings that fill an entire city block;

Whereas, there have previously been four (4) public entrances to the Complex including 185 Central Avenue, 136 Pryor Street, 160 Pryor Street and the Joyner Bridge crossing Pryor Street and connecting the Complex with the Fulton County Government Center at 141 Pryor Street ("the Joyner Bridge");

Whereas, the Sheriff of Fulton County, the Hon. Theodore "Ted" Jackson, has closed all but one of the public entrances to the Complex, the entrance located at 185 Central Avenue;

Whereas, these closures have resulted in members of the public having to wait in tremendously long lines in order to gain access to the Complex – lines often stretch out of the Complex and down the sidewalk at the beginning of the business day;

Whereas, members of the public including but not limited to lawyers, litigants, witnesses, jurors, and prospective jurors have had their access to the building unreasonably delayed so as to hinder court proceedings and other business functions occurring within the Complex and, in some cases, incurring significant financial costs to lawyers and litigants;

Whereas, the Joyner Bridge has been closed for a number of months thwarting easy access between the Complex and the Fulton County Government Center, impeding the flow of mail and the provision of food services to the Complex and requiring numerous County employees and others to cross Pryor Street encountering unnecessary dangers and delays that the Joyner Bridge was constructed to avoid;

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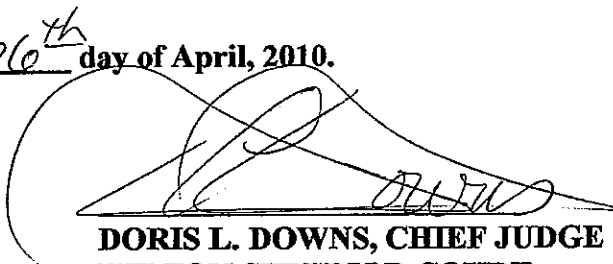
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Whereas, over a period of several months the undersigned Chief Judge of the Fulton County Superior Court has lodged numerous complaints regarding the impeded access to the Complex with the Sheriff and other Fulton County government officials,

Whereas, every court has the inherent power, “[t]o control, in the furtherance of justice, the conduct of its officers and all other persons connected with a judicial proceeding before it in every matter appertaining thereto,”¹

THE SHERIFF IS HEREBY ORDERED TO APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE AS TO WHY THIS COURT SHOULD NOT ORDER ALL FOUR OF THE AFOREMENTIONED ENTRANCES TO THE COMPLEX BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS. During said hearing the Court will hear evidence from other interested parties. Said hearing will occur on **April 30, 2010 at 10:45 a.m.** in Courtroom 7F.

SO ORDERED this 26th day of April, 2010.



**DORIS L. DOWNS, CHIEF JUDGE
FULTON SUPERIOR COURT
ATLANTA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

cc:

John Eaves, Chairman of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Zachary Williams, County Manger

David Ricks, Director of General Services

I, DO CERTIFY THAT THE WITHIN AND FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT ORIGINAL DOCUMENT AS APPEARS ON FILE AND RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF CLERK OF FULTON SUPERIOR COURT.

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26th DAY OF April, 2010

Cathele Robinson

**DEPUTY CLERK, FULTON SUPERIOR COURT
CATHELENE ROBINSON
CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA**

¹ O.C.G.A. § 15-1-3 (4); see also Brown v. Incarcerated Public Defender Clients Division 3, 288 Ga. App. 859, 861 (2007).

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