

# **The Mayor States That “Over 95% of the Bain Turnaround Plan Has Been Fully Implemented”. Here Are The Facts:**

In the City of Atlanta Online, dated July 19, 2008, the following article “Mayor Franklin Continues Efforts To Reform Government” appears:

Here are a few of the “critical priorities” of the 2002 Turnaround Plan that have NOT been implemented:

**1. Privatization of Sanitary Services:** *One of the “Critical Priorities” of the Turnaround Plan – never implemented - is the privatization of Residential Sanitation Services.* Page 23 of the Turnaround Plan states “Many other cities have turned to private contractors to provide Residential Sanitation Services.” The Turnaround Plan shows, in Figure 5-12, that the 2002 Sanitary Services cost the taxpayers \$45.5 million annually, with three men per truck. Private firms use one-man per truck equipped with an automatic arm which picks up, empties and returns the garbage cans.

The Turnaround Plan shows in Figure 5-13 that in 1997 58% of all cities privatized Residential Sanitation Services. According to the Reason Foundation, “72% of American cities, in 2008, have privatized their Residential Sanitation Services.” CH2MHill, the firm that manages Sandy Springs, Johns Creek, Milton and many other cities in USA, lists Residential Sanitation Services as one of their first privatization efforts.

**2. Marketization Of All City Services:** *A second “critical priority” of the Turnaround Plan – never implemented - is Marketization of all city services.* Page 52 of the Turnaround Plan states: “Another approach used by some cities to improve efficiency and effectiveness has been marketization. This term describes the process whereby government services are bid on by both private firms and the existing

government department. An evaluation of the proposed offerings is made and a contract is awarded to provide the service to the municipality.”

Figure 5-72 of the Turnaround Plan lists the services and the “estimated savings of marketization”: “Residential Waste Collection, 60% upper bound savings; Fleet Management & Maintenance, 38% upper bound savings; Information Services, 20%; Airport Mgmt. & Operations, 40%; Fire Services, 50%; Recreation Facilities & Operation, 52%; Park Landscaping, 28%; Road Maintenance, 50%; Wastewater Treatment, 30%’ Water, 25%.”

**3. The Need For “Talented Employees To Undertake The Important Functions Of The City”:** *The third critical priority” of the Turnaround Plan – never implemented - is the need for talented employees.* Figure 5-20, Page 27 of the Turnaround Plan, “City of Atlanta Performance Evaluations”, shows 20% of the city employees ranked “outstanding”, 5% ranked “highly effective”, 75% ranked “effective.” According to Geoff Segal, former Director, Reason Foundation, “Far too many of Atlanta’s employees would never achieve performance standards determined by an independent management consultant. The Turnaround Plan states on Page 25, “Ensuring that qualified, dedicated personnel are in place is critical to helping Atlanta reach its desired “best in class’ status.”

**4. Atlanta Police & Fire Departments:** *The fourth “critical priority” of the Turnaround Plan is the improvement of public safety.* In Figure 5-26, page 30 of the Turnaround Plan, the following recommendations are made for the Atlanta Police DepartmentL: “develop headcount targets, update recruiting strategy, develop a plan to address attrition, understand drivers of attrition, conduct salary/benefits study, develop/update career path.” According to Sgt. Kreher, Atlanta Police Representative, “The career Path, described on page 34 of the Turnaround Plan, has never been implemented.”

According to the Turnaround Plan, page 39, “the Atlanta Fire Department is currently running three men per truck vs. four to avoid overtime.” In addition, the Plan states: “the need to hire 150+ firefighters to staff without overtime.” The Plan continues to state: “Current facilities are limited, insufficient classroom space, out-of-date burn building, no dedicated facilities for hazmat, driver training; a new facility would cost at least \$25 million to construct and equip.” Finally, the Turnaround Plan states that the Atlanta Fire Department has “a need for increased management and leadership skill training, accredited officer candidate schools and research to upgrade its current technology.” None of this has been implemented.

**5. Service Consolidation:** *Service consolidation has never been implemented!* Page 48 of the Turnaround Plan states: “An additional method to improve the efficiency of the City would be to join forces with surrounding municipal and county entities

to provide common services to all citizens.” The savings from consolidation would be enormous.

6. **Sewer Consent Decree:** A year ago, the cost of the Sewer & Water Infrastructure was \$3.2 billion. Today, it is \$4 billion! Page 43 of the Turnaround Plan clearly recommends “Develop a Monthly Critical Items Report For The Mayor.” The Fulton County Taxpayers Foundation urged the appointment of an independent Oversight Committee of Professional Engineers to report monthly to the Mayor.

7. **Roads & Traffic Systems:** Still another critical priority – never implemented – is the roads and traffic systems. On Page 11, the Turnaround Plan clearly states: “The City has under-invested in its roads and additional projects may be necessary.”

**By implementing these strategies, the budget would balance, a surplus would be created and there would be no need to increase taxes.**