



CITY OF ATLANTA ATLANTA DEVELOPMENT NEWS

City of Atlanta Seeks Input on Major Planning Office Expansion

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Overhaul of planning office could bring major changes to how Atlanta builds — and a much swifter permitting process

BY **MICHAEL KAHN** | JUN 7, 2016, 9:09AM EDT



Tim Keane: man with a plan. | [LinkedIn](#) and [City-Data](#)

Tim Keane joined the City of Atlanta less than [one year ago](#) as the Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Community Development. And in that time,

he's made some waves, calling for an overhaul of the city's zoning, bike infrastructure, affordable housing, and a sharper focus on the core of the city.

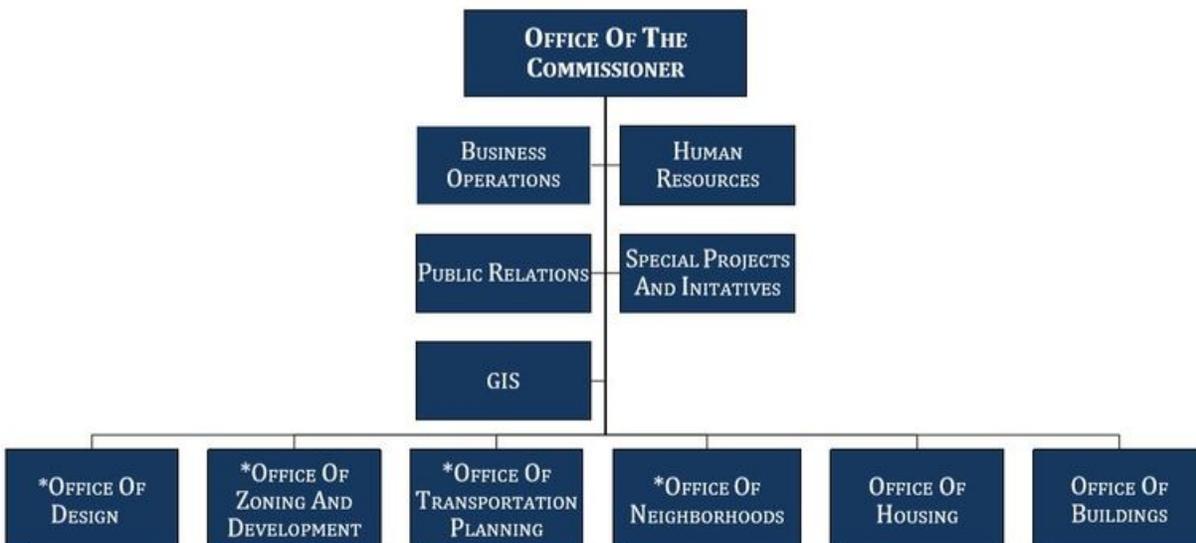
Keane has had to fight with the entrenched bureaucracy and current administration he joined, and he's now lobbying the Atlanta City Council to make sweeping changes to reorganize the entire planning department of the city. According to an email circulated by Central Atlanta Progress, Keane has presented a proposal to be incorporated into next year's city budget.

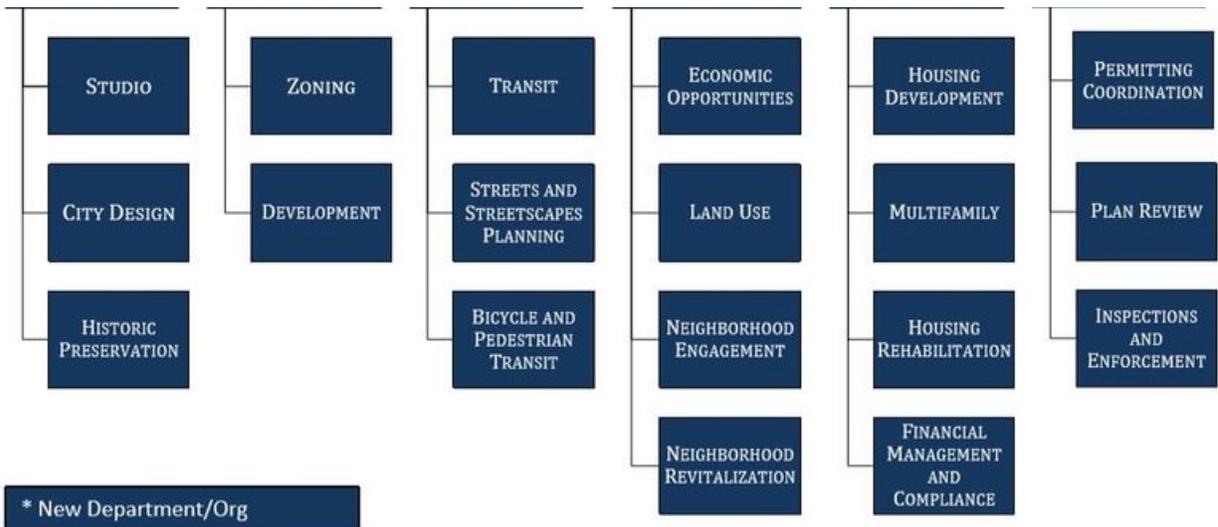
Much has been said about Atlanta's backlogged and messy planning process, so the changes could be important. They include:

- Four new offices under the auspices of the planning department including the Office of Design, the Office of Zoning and Development, the Office of Transportation Planning, and the Office of Neighborhoods
- The Office of Buildings would potentially have 17 employees, including 12 new hires, allowing for much faster review of permits
- With the new organization, the oft-complained-about long wait times to receive a permit in the city could be greatly reduced, officials believe

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Planning and Community Development





The proposed organization of the new department. | [City of Atlanta](#)

Proposed roles for each department are spelled out starting on page 365 of the [Proposed Budget](#) for next year. If the changes are approved, Atlanta could potentially take a few major steps forward in shaping a better city.

The city will take public comments on the proposal at 10 a.m. this Wednesday in City Hall. Central Atlanta Progress is urging Atlantans to come and voice their support, or email Atlanta City Council members about the proposal.

- [Proposed Budget - Fiscal Year 2017](#) [City of Atlanta]
- [Planning Czar Tim Keane Talks Steps to Make Atlanta Awesome](#) [Curbed]

THE LATEST



Affordable old Piedmont Ave. apartments to fall for high-end rentals

Oak Knoll in Morningside/Lenox Park will be replaced by nearly 100 apartments tailored to Baby Boomers.

BY **MICHAEL KAHN** | 3 COMMENTS



Photos: inside Midtown's lavish YOO on the Park apartment tower

Standing 25 posh stories, the finished tower up the street from Piedmont Park is offering some units for more than \$3 per square foot—a benchmark once thought impossible in Atlanta.

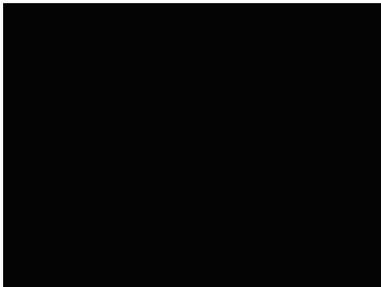
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Near Beltline's Westside Trail, dramatic bungalow overhaul wants \$199K

This 1945 cottage within walking distance of the Beltline's almost-ready Westside Trail has undergone a "sexy" and "ultra contemporary" renovation that aims for flash and wow.

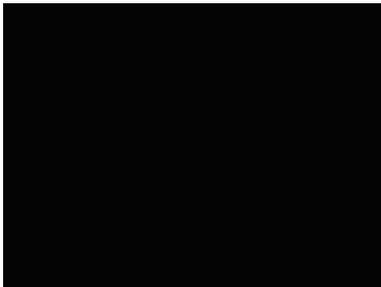
BY **JOSH GREEN** | 36 COMMENTS



Midtown dual-branded hotel construction launches, swallowing parking lot

The Moxy-AC Hotels by Marriott hybrid will bring 288 hotel rooms to a block with two existing hotels.

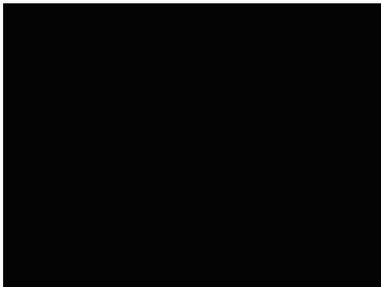
BY **MICHAEL KAHN** | 24 COMMENTS



Peachtree Street in heart of Midtown to get rock-climbing gym. Seriously

Plans call for Stone Summit to open a third metro location in a revamped office building north of 3rd Street.

BY **MICHAEL KAHN** | 23 COMMENTS



Report: Atlanta homebuyers are habitually blowing their budgets

About half of potential homebuyers in Atlanta expect bidding wars to drive up prices of the abodes they covet—and more than half fear becoming house poor.

BY **JOSH GREEN** | 68 COMMENTS