



For Immediate Release

Contact:

Keith Bowermaster, APR  
Cookerly Public Relations  
404-816-2037  
keith@cookerly.com

## **City of Atlanta and Fulton County Recreation Authority Names New Executive Director**

*City of Atlanta Councilwoman Keisha Lance Bottoms to assume position June 1*

ATLANTA (April 17, 2015) – [The City of Atlanta and Fulton County Recreation Authority](#) (AFCRA) has named Keisha Lance Bottoms as its new executive director. Bottoms, who also serves as the District 11 councilwoman for the City of Atlanta, will begin June 1, 2015.

“As we look at the myriad of policy and legal issues facing the Authority in the coming years, it is important that the new executive director be positioned to address these issues while enhancing our communications with the key stakeholders, including the City of Atlanta and Fulton County governments,” said William K Whitner, chair of the Authority. “With experience as both an elected official and attorney, Mrs. Bottoms is uniquely qualified to lead this organization and we are thrilled that she has accepted the position.”

Two of the Authority’s properties, Turner Field and Philips Arena, are operated in partnership with professional sports teams (Major League Baseball’s the Atlanta Braves and the Atlanta Hawks of the National Basketball Association, respectively) who are themselves undergoing transitions that will or may require actions from the Authority. The Braves are leaving Turner Field for a new facility in Cobb County and the Hawks are currently for sale.

“This is certainly an exciting time in Atlanta and I am thrilled to take a lead role in shaping the future for the City’s sports and recreation initiatives,” said Bottoms. “I look forward to working with Authority board members as well as city and county officials on these and many other projects.”

Bottoms is replacing current executive director Violet Travis Ricks, who is leaving the organization to pursue other interests. Credited by Chairman Whitner as having “a vital role in leading the growth of this organization to where it is today,” Ricks served as executive director for the past 10-plus years and will stay on as a consultant for as long as necessary to complete the transition in the best interest of the Authority.

“I am extremely grateful to the Board and tremendously proud of what we have accomplished together over the past decade, including significantly increasing revenues while reducing costs,” said Ricks. “It has been a very gratifying experience, and I am looking forward to the next chapter in my career.”

**About City of Atlanta and Fulton County Recreation Authority**

The City of Atlanta and Fulton County Recreation Authority (“AFCRA”) was created in 1960 and is, in part, authorized to: obtain, construct, equip, maintain, and operate sports and recreation facilities, including parking thereof; acquire, lease and sell property; and issue revenue bonds. AFCRA owns Philips Arena, Turner Field and the Olympic Cauldron, and has certain responsibilities related to Zoo Atlanta and John A. White Park.

# # #