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Dear Housing Summit Invitee:

Throughout the modern history of Clayton County and the Atlanta area, the housing industry has been one of the greatest contributors to the region's economic strength and vitality. Unfortunately, during this period of economic prosperity, no one predicted the mortgage crisis and the huge losses on Wall Street caused by the housing industry collapse. Since 2006, the housing industry "engine" has stalled and no persons or organizations have succeeded in crafting universal solutions to "jump start" the engine and make it run smoothly.

One of the by-products of the housing construction and financing institution collapse has been the unprecedented number of foreclosures. Foreclosures have devastated families and caused fiscal emergencies for the State of Georgia, Clayton County, other local governments, and the entire nation.

Metropolitan Atlanta has long been recognized as a leader in regional planning and cooperation. This history makes the area a natural environment to expand these efforts to include developing workable solutions to the housing crisis. Therefore, at a time when many continue to act only as spectators to the housing crisis, Clayton County will serve as a laboratory by inviting Atlanta Metropolitan Area officials to a Clayton County Regional Housing Summit. The purpose of the Summit is to discuss and share approaches for dealing with the current housing crisis and related housing issues, including: **foreclosures, housing for seniors, veterans housing, faith-based initiatives, special needs housing, and housing for working families.** The Summit will be held May 12-13, 2011 at the Morrow Convention Center, Morrow Georgia, and will feature:

- **Keynote remarks by Ron Sims**, Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- **Remarks by Michael Blake**, White House Presidential Advisor
- **Technical workshops** led by local, area, state and federal expert staff members
- **Best practices** for solving the Clayton County/Atlanta Area housing crisis
- **A forecast** of future federal and state housing resources for local governments
- **Other presentations** and information addressing housing issues.

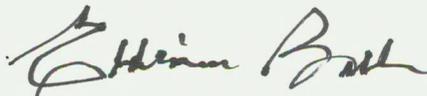
Presentations will be made at the Summit by representatives from the White House, the United States Senate, the United States House of Representatives, and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Other presentations will be made at the Summit by experts on the Atlanta Area economy and on the impact of housing foreclosures, on a county-by-county basis for Clayton County and the ten-county Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

The Housing Summit is a partnership of the Clayton County government and its municipalities, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, Habitat for Humanity, the Georgia Council on Aging, veterans groups, local financial institutions, real estate groups, and others.

We strongly encourage you to attend the Clayton County Regional Housing Summit on May 12-13th, to share your expertise and experiences. The preliminary agenda is attached.

If you have any questions, please call (770) 210-5208 or email Peryenthia.Hudson@co.clayton.ga.us.

Yours for Clayton County,



Eldrin Bell, Chairman
Clayton County Board of Commissioners

Attachment: Summit Agenda

Who Should Attend?

1. Local Government Elected Officials.
2. Professional Staff Members in Housing, Community Development, and Economic Development.
3. Local Veterans and Veterans Groups.
4. Workforce Housing Advocates.
5. Senior Citizens and Senior Organizations.
6. Church Representatives and Faith-Based Groups.
7. Bankers and Financial Institutions.
8. Real Estate Brokers and Agents.
9. Affordable Housing Organizations – Statewide, Area and Local.
10. Building Industry Representatives.
11. Other Individuals and Groups involved in the Housing Industry.