



**The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods
Board Meeting**
March 17, 2011
Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Room 2315
6:30 – 8:30 PM
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

	Full Name	Neighborhood/Organization	E-mail Address
1	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
2	Hannah Chung	Zone 2 Community Prosecutor	Hannah.Chung@FultonCountyGA.gov
3	Leslie Churchill	Margaret Mitchell	lschurchill@bellsouth.net
4	Kathy Collura	Peachtree Heights East	KathyCollura@bellsouth.net
5	Diane Cox	Brookwood	brookwoodcivic@gmail.com
6	Joe Earle	Buckhead Reporter	joeearle@reporternewspapers.net
7	Kristy Gillmann	Peachtree Hills	phca_kristy@hotmail.com
8	Tom Gordon	Ardmore Park	tgordon@mindspring.com
9	Robb Herron	Greening Neighborhoods/Peachtree Hills	
10	Dan Hillman	Buckhead Forest	dahillman@gmail.com
11	George Hornbine	Greening Neighborhoods/Peachtree Hills	
12	Barbara Kennedy	Collier Hills	bar2010@aol.com
13	Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mindspring.com
14	Bill Langley	Ridgedale Park	blangley@kwcommercial.com
15	Walda Lavroff	North Buckhead	waldalavroff@comcast.net
16	Gloria Love	Northside Neighbor	glove@mdjonline.com
17	George Mirgorod	Pine Hills	gmirgorod@comcast.net
18	Roger Moister	Collier Hills North	Moisters2@yahoo.com
19	Cathy Muzzy	Peachtree Park	muzzy.cathy3@gmail.com
20	Ann O'Connell	Mt. Paran-Northside	annoconnell1@bellsouth.net
21	Garth Peters	Memorial Park & Buckhead Coalition	gpeters@thebuckheadcoalition.org
22	Buff Quillian	Peachtree Heights West	buffquillianphw@gmail.com
23	Loulie Reese	Memorial Park	Loulie_tarbutton_reese@yahoo.com
24	John Schaffner	Buckhead View	jfschaffner@gmail.com
25	Bob Schneider	Garden Hills	bschneider@gardenhills.net
26	Alex Smith	Wildwood	asmithconsulting@earthlink.net
27	Debra Wathen	Paces	6wathens@bellsouth.net

Representation by Neighborhood:

	Neighborhood	Name(s)
1	Ardmore Park	Tom Gordon
2	Brookwood	Diane Cox
3	Buckhead Forest	Dan Hillman
4	Chastain Park	Jim King
5	Collier Hills	Barbara Kennedy
6	Collier Hills North	Roger Moister
7	Garden Hills	Bob Schneider
8	Margaret Mitchell	Leslie Churchill
9	Memorial Park	Loulie Reese, Garth Peters
10	Mt. Paran-Northside	Ann O'Connell
11	North Buckhead	Gordon Certain, Walda Lavroff
12	Paces	Debra Wathen
13	Peachtree Heights East	Kathy Collura
14	Peachtree Heights West	Buff Quillian
15	Peachtree Hills	Kristy Gillmann, Robb Herron
16	Peachtree Park	Cathy Muzzy
17	Pine Hills	George Mirgorod
18	Ridgedale Park	Bill Langley
19	Wildwood	Alex Smith

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BCN 2010/11 Officers

<u>Office</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Chairman	Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mindspring.com
Vice-chairman	Elizabeth Prichard	Peachtree Battle Alliance	elizpritchard@bellsouth.net
Secretary	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
Treasurer	Barbara Kennedy	Collier Hills	bar2010@aol.com
Communications	Bob Schneider	Garden Hills	bschneider@gardenhills.net
Member at Large	George Mirgorod	Pine Hills	gmirgorod@comcast.net

I. Welcome

Jim King called the meeting to order at around 6:40 PM.

II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves. A quorum was in attendance.

III. Approval of February Minutes

Minutes for the February meeting were approved.

IV. New Members (If any)

The **Collier Hills North** and **Wildwood** neighborhoods were unanimously admitted as new members of BCN. Brookwood Hills was anticipated to join but was not represented at this meeting. Twenty-one neighborhoods have paid 2011 dues as of this meeting.

V. Announcements and/or Brief Presentations

triPATHlon – Jim King announced a new, first of a kind event: the Chastain Park triPATHlon, to be held on Sunday, May 8, 2011. The first-ever triPATHlon – a benefit event for coordinating sponsors the PATH Foundation, Chastain Park Conservancy and Chastain Park Athletic Club - starts at 7:30 a.m. and includes a 400-yard swim in the Chastain Park pool, a 15-mile bike ride through one of Atlanta's most beautiful neighborhoods around Chastain Park and concludes with a 5K run on the Chastain Park trail. The event is open to those 13 years old and up.

Zone 2 Community Prosecutor – Hannah Chung announced that the annual Court Watch training will be held on March 19 at the court house building.

The Jonathan Redding (the Standard Bar bartender shooting) trial: the defendant was tried under the gang statute, etc. and was sentenced to life plus 70 years.

The Torus Dixon (the Chastain burglar from last summer) trial: The calendar manager forgot to put him on the trial calendar and the defendant may also enter a guilty plea – if not the trial is scheduled for April 11. Dixon has a very long record and is likely to get at least 20 years.

A Sidney Marcus carjacking case of Telaton Evans resulted in a guilty plea, resulting in a significantly lengthy sentence.

Danny Benson, the man accused of child molestation at Chastain Park, had two hearings in front of magistrate judges: the first judge found probable cause of a felony charge, the second didn't. Two days later, the grand jury returned an indictment in the case, "trumping" the ruling of the second magistrate judge, and the case is proceeding.

Greening Neighborhoods – George Hornbine and Ron Herron

Kristy Gillmann introduced the topic, saying that her neighborhood's interest in this program to reduce their carbon footprint started several years ago. Last spring Peachtree Hills was awarded the city's highest award, the Phoenix Award, as a result of the program.

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George explained that Greening Neighborhoods was an effort to get households to conserve energy and water and save money. All neighborhoods were encouraged to join and announce the program in their respective newsletters. Robb passed out a flyer and application form – on BCN's web site at www.nbca.org/bcn/flyers/Greening_Neighborhoods_flyer.pdf.

Robb said household energy use made up 22% of the nation's total energy consumption. Most of this use goes to heating and cooling, while lighting makes up 15% and water heating 14%. Their strategy focuses on education, competition and comparison at the household level. They have an on-line blog. They compute neighborhood average energy usage so residents can see how they compare in context to others.

VI. BCN Planning Session

At the last meeting, Elizabeth Prichard suggested that we make this meeting into a planning session.

Neighborhood Membership - Jim King asked that those with a contact in the Kingswood neighborhood try to see if we can get them active in BCN again. Buckhead Heights is another neighborhood that attended some BCN meetings but which has not joined. Brookwood Hills was expected tonight, but has not shown up. Elizabeth has tried to get in contact with Channing Valley but has gotten no response.

Loring Heights has expressed interest in joining BCN – they are outside the recognized "Buckhead" boundaries with an active association. Jim said that when we started out we adopted the Buckhead Coalition's definition of Buckhead but reserved the right for the BCN board of directors to define our own Buckhead boundaries. Garth Peters pointed out that the State of Georgia recognizes the Buckhead Coalition's boundaries of the 28 square miles of Buckhead. Jim responded that we are not part of the government and can make decisions on what neighborhoods make up our community. Loring Heights is in the E. Rivers and North Atlanta school zones. The decision was made to invite Loring Heights and Hanover West (a similarly situated neighborhood) to the next meeting to explore the issue further.

Randall Mill, Whitewater Creek and Mt. Paran Parkway have been shown as separate neighborhoods on the BCN map but Ann O'Conner said they were part of Mt. Paran Northside. Randall Mill is a separate neighborhood for the purposes of crime reports and street parties. In the future, these neighborhoods will be shown combined. (See revised map on Page 7 of 8.)

Neighborhoods coded "N/A" on the BCN map were discussed – N/A means no association. Jim said our goal should be to help them become organized or adopt them into an adjacent neighborhood. Hopefully, with BCN's help, all of the neighborhoods shown as N/A will be organized someday.

City Pensions – Yolanda provided Jim King with a paper on the city's pension crisis. Gordon Certain will distribute it. Yolanda asked BCN to have neighbors attend the pension meetings to support her.

BCN Committee Structure – Jim King pointed out that we have a number of BCN committees; some are active and some are not.

The Education Committee has been suspended and its activities have been absorbed back into the board.

We currently have the following committees: Communications, Development and Infrastructure, Parks, Property Taxes, Public Safety, Redistricting, and Transportation. Kristy Gillmann reminded Jim that she had been designated as the Watershed representative, not as a committee.

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John Halliburton of Transportation has moved to another neighborhood and is not interested in continuing as Transportation Committee chair.

Communications – Bob Schneider said he thought a web site would be a good initial mission for the communications committee. Diane Cox said her neighborhood had set up a web site recently. Elizabeth Prichard said her neighborhood is getting ready to launch their neighborhood's new web site. Their site cost \$5,000, including design and initial operations. Bob was asked to proceed with a new web site.

Parks – Gordon Certain and Jim King have been attending Parks meetings. Jim suggested that those who are interested in working on the Parks Committee to contact Gordon.

Public Safety - We will address this important committee at another time. Elizabeth Prichard said that a guy in her neighborhood is starting a web site called "Home Elephant", particularly to neighborhoods not as organized as hers is. Home Elephant lets neighbors post crime and suspicious persons alerts real time. Elizabeth said she would send information to Gordon Certain for dissemination. Gordon commented that he had heard the Home Elephant presentation and felt that it was community oriented rather than neighborhood association oriented and the neighborhood association would have very little control of what was said on the site.

Garth Peters asked Gordon if he had gotten a response from APD on his comments about the proposed Zone/beat realignment. APD had committed to get back with Gordon when key people were back from vacations. Gordon had commented that the proposed new Beat 203B as documented on APD maps didn't include Lenox Square, contradicting APD's spoken presentation which said it did include Lenox Square. Gordon also provided an analysis that questioned whether there would be a response time issue, given that workloads had been balanced among the zones but since Zone 2 beats were considerably larger than beats in the rest of the city, travel time would be an issue. He said that, for instance, workloads in Zones 2 and 5 have been normalized to about the same amount for the beat officers (which is fair for the beat officers), but since the Zone 2 beat officers have to travel three times as far, on average, if you are the citizen waiting for help to arrive in Zone 2, it is not fair to the citizens.

Redistricting – Skip for now. (Flyers for a March 22 Common Cause discussion on redistricting issues were distributed and discussed.)

Development and Infrastructure – Jim suggested that since John Halliburton was no longer involved, that we combine transportation into Elizabeth Prichard's committee Development and Infrastructure Committee. This change will be voted on late in the meeting.

General discussion on BCN committees – We voted two meetings ago to create a redistricting committee. We have a Property Tax. Should there be a governmental relations committee? Many of the committees are issue driven -- do we need all of these committees?

Elizabeth Prichard responded, "Everyone in here is swamped, either being presidents or past presidents. ... Whenever we say 'Who wants to join a committee?' everybody's hands go under the table because we *can't* join a committee. And you need people who are plugged in, to bring the information to the table, so my recommendation is, instead of having a committee, have a person responsible for a certain area, like Gordon in Parks and Bob in Communications, and I'll try to keep my ear to the ground with Development and Infrastructure. And if issues arise, that a neighborhood is struggling with, or that we as Buckhead need to be aware of, or whatever, bring it to the person who is responsible for that area. And if it's in your neighborhood, odds are good that you're going to have to grapple with it, but we as a group can take a position on it and utilize the resources we have at the table... The neighborhoods most affected will lead the charge. Watershed was big but we didn't need a committee

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because Kristy just took it. It is almost easier for one person to take it and run with it than it is to call a meeting.”

Jim summarized: “This is what I think I am hearing you saying: ‘Let’s not have committees, let’s have a liaison for each issue.’” Kristy agreed: “a point person” – she continued, if you have a web site, multiple people can be involved in separate issues, and then come together to implement it. If it is something like George is dealing with (property taxes), he’s going to have the expertise. Another male voice commented we might have a couple of standing committees and the rest liaisons. Jim continued that we have an Executive Committee, which meets as needed and a Communications standing committee. Do any of these other issues need a standing committee or will they be served best by having a liaison?

The discussion digressed to the topic of redistricting. It appeared to be the sense of the group that we should try to pursue redistricting so as to have a resident representative in the Senate, much as we had when Mike Egan was Buckhead’s Senator.

Jim mentioned that he had suggested to Ed Lindsey that a group from BCN visit the State Capitol. Ed was receptive and suggested that BCN reps come down and have lunch with him. Jim will try to arrange a date for such an outing.

Back to the issue of redistricting, Jim asked if anyone was interested in chairing it – Elizabeth responded that she thought Jim was the best choice. The issue of whether redistricting should be a standing committee, since it would exist only briefly. A “task force” concept was suggested. Jim said he would research it and then we would jointly decide how to proceed. In the interim, Jim will be the redistricting liaison.

Last month we were requested to organize a response to Milton County, but since it wouldn’t come up this year in the Legislature, the group was agreeable with Jim’s suggestion that we put the Milton issue off until next year.

The discussion concluded with the unanimous approval of a **motion** setting out the following new BCN committee/liason structure:

Standing BCN committees:

- Executive Committee
- Communications Committee

BCN Liaisons:

- Education - Leslie Churchill
- Parks – Gordon Certain
- Property Taxes – George Mirgorod
- Public Safety – Kim Kahwach
- Redistricting – Jim King
- Transportation, Development and Infrastructure – Elizabeth Prichard
- Watershed Department – Kristy Gillmann

Issues – The following issues were identified in the preceding discussion: Pensions, taxes, Tax/SPLOST, APD Zone/Beat Realignment, redistricting, Milton County. Jim asked if there were any thoughts on any of them. Garth Peters asked if we should consider taking a position on the school versus transportation SPLOST. The possibilities are the SPLOST would go to the schools, to transportation or possibly be split.

Jim said we have been most effective when we had issues that we could all get behind, like we did with GA 400 and Northside Drive’s “suicide lane”.

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ADP Zone/Beat Realignment - Is APD Rezoning an issue we need to take on right now? Gordon said, yes – the rezoning is going to happen but we should ask for more staffing – another umbrella car and more detectives for Cheshire Bridge – both Yolanda Adrean and Howard Shook have taken that position. Roger Moister said he also attended the APD briefing in Buckhead and his question was, will APD evaluate their new system and determine whether it really works? What is their timeframe for doing that?

The BCN Board unanimously approved a **motion** to endorse the resource requests made by Yolanda Adrean and Howard Shook (an extra umbrella car and two detectives for Zone 2) as well as monthly reports to BCN of actual work unit allocations and response times at the beat level. Gordon was asked to draft a letter to APD outlining BCN's position.

Jim asked how many neighborhoods employed off-duty police – about two-thirds indicated they did. So the neighborhoods are providing extra manpower, which suppresses some crimes, but when there are crimes, our residents do not do a good enough job in reporting to 911, thinking a call to the local security patrol is sufficient. So the stats are not in our favor and we get less support.

Redistricting – That is another issue that was agreed upon.

Pensions – Jim asked that we find out when the next pension hearings will be so BCN board members and residents can make a showing. Gordon will distribute the briefing package that Yolanda gave Jim so the BCN board can become familiar with the presentations.

Sales Tax/SPLOST – Garth Peters agreed to research the issue.

New High School Location/New Buckhead Traffic Issues – How will the new high school location impact traffic in the area? In particular, the possible redesign of the Mt. Paran/I-75 issue is under consideration by Yolanda Adrean and the Mt. Paran Northside neighborhood association. I-75 and US 41 are under the control of the GDOT, while Mt. Paran is the city's. Concerns were also expressed about the impact on West Paces Ferry Road, which could be significant. Garth Peters mentioned a new shopping center announced for the intersection of Howell Mill Road and Collier Road. Jim suggested that Ann O'Connell and Debra Wathen need to talk, and get Yolanda Adrean and Ed Lindsey and/or Elly Dobbs involved and keep Elizabeth Prichard updated. When the neighborhoods have a position, they can approach BCN about how we can help.

VII. Next Meeting - April 14, 2011.

VIII. Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at about 8:35 PM.

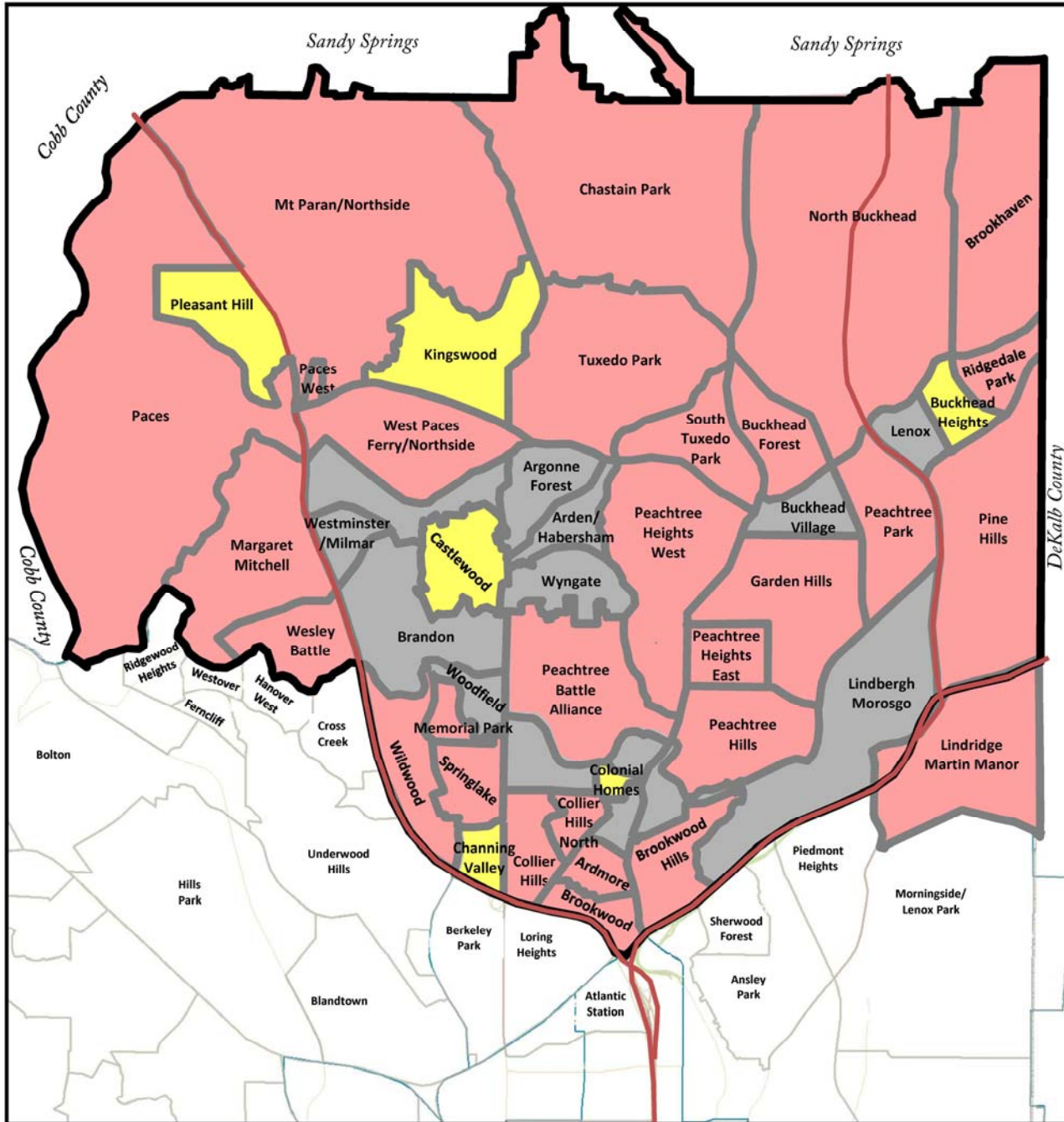
***Note:** The opinions expressed by the speakers and individual neighborhood representatives in these minutes do not necessarily represent those of BCN or its member neighborhoods.*

Prepared by Gordon Certain
BCN Secretary

April 7, 2011 (Revised April 12 to reflect attendance of Louie Reese.)

Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

2011 Membership If All 2010 Members Continue



LEGEND

2011 Membership If All 2010 Members Continue

YES NO N/A

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BCN Organizational Status as of 3/17/11																
		BCN Dues			Representation at BCN Board Meetings											
	Neighborhood	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011								
					3 meetings	12 meetings	11 meetings	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
1	Arden															
2	Ardmore Park	✓	✓	✓	100%	67%	91%	✓	✓							
3	Argonne Forest						9%									
4	Brookwood		✓	✓		17%	45%	✓	✓							
5	Brookwood Hills			Voted to join		8%		✓								
6	Buckhead Forest	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	100%		✓							
7	Buckhead Heights					8%										
8	Castlewood	✓	✓			17%										
9	Channing Valley															
10	Chastain Park	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓							
11	Collier Hills	✓	✓	✓		67%	82%	✓	✓							
12	Collier Hills North			✓		8%	9%		✓							
13	Garden Hills	✓	✓			75%	91%		✓							
14	Grant Estates	✓	✓		100%	83%	82%									
15	Historic Brookhaven	✓	✓		33%	58%	91%									
16	Kingswood	✓			33%	8%	9%									
17	Lindridge Martin Manor	✓	✓	✓	33%	25%	55%	✓								
18	Margaret Mitchell	✓	✓	✓		33%	64%	✓	✓							
19	Memorial Park	✓	✓	✓	67%	58%	91%	✓	✓							
20	Mt. Paran-Northside	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	55%	✓	✓							
21	North Buckhead	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓							
22	Peachtree Battle Alliance	✓	✓	✓	100%	83%	64%	✓								
23	Paces	✓	✓		67%	58%	55%	✓	✓							
24	Paces West	✓	✓			17%										
25	Peachtree Heights East	✓	✓	✓	67%	50%		✓	✓							
26	Peachtree Heights West	✓	✓	✓	33%	25%	73%	✓	✓							
27	Peachtree Hills	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	45%	✓	✓							
28	Peachtree Park	✓	✓		67%	83%	55%		✓							
29	Pine Hills		✓	✓	33%	8%	91%	✓	✓							
30	Pleasant Hill															
31	Ridgedale Park	✓	✓	✓	100%	58%	73%		✓							
32	Springlake		✓	✓			55%	✓								
33	Tuxedo Park	✓	✓	✓	67%	75%	73%	✓								
34	Wesley Bohler	✓	✓			17%	9%									
35	West Paces Northside	✓	✓	✓	67%	67%	64%	✓								
36	Whitewater Creek	✓	✓	See Note	100%	75%	45%	Note: Now reported with Mt. Paran Northside								
37	Wildwood			✓	33%		27%		✓							
Neighborhood Totals		26	28	21	Avg: 16	Avg: 16	Avg: 18	20	19							