

February 24, 2013

Contact:

Xochitl Bervera, Racial Justice Action Center (404) 861-0756

ATLANTANS BLAST BANISHMENT ORDINANCE AS 'MISGUIDED' & 'MEDIEVAL'
Councilman Bond urged to withdraw bill that endangers the lives of sex workers and increases street level prostitution

(Atlanta) Dozens of Atlanta area residents, businesses, and organizations will return to City Hall on Monday to give a clear message to the Public Safety Committee and Committee Chairman Michael Julian Bond that they oppose the Banishment Ordinance and want to see it defeated.

“The City of Atlanta should be ashamed of itself for proposing such a backward and counter-productive ordinance,” said Marilynn Winn, a resident of the West End and a member of Women on the Rise. “The real issue here is how do we, as a city, help sex workers get off the street for good. This ordinance endangers lives and does nothing to solve the problem.”

“This ordinance was apparently cobbled together after little to no research into national best practices,” said Marshall Rancifer, a resident of the Bluff and an outreach worker for the Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition. “They didn't even bother to look into Atlanta’s own strong history of effective pre-arrest diversion programs and harm reduction innovations. The council should scrap this ordinance and go back to the drawing table on this one.”

WHO: Residents of Midtown, West End, Pittsburgh, and other Atlanta neighborhoods and surrounding areas; members of the gay and lesbian community; members of the transgender community; anti-trafficking advocates; civil rights and women’s rights organizations; and members of the faith community

WHAT: Atlanta Public Safety Committee and Legal Administration Work Session

WHERE: City Hall, 55 Trinity Ave, Committee Room 2

WHEN: Monday, February 25th, 2013 at 1:00pm

###