

**FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** 

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SHERIFF PATRICK "PAT" LABAT'S STATEMENT REGARDING THE ATLANTA CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD

The Fulton County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) remains committed to operating with professionalism and transparency in a way that facilitates due process and protects constitutional rights.

Regarding the working relationship between the Fulton County Sheriff's Office and Atlanta Citizen's Review Board (ACRB), it's important to understand that the ACRB provides citizen oversight of misconduct accusations against sworn members of the police and corrections departments in the City of Atlanta.

Our review of the facts reveals an ACRB investigator notified Atlanta City Detention Center (ACDC) staff about an interview visit at ACDC.

While at ACDC, that same investigator decided to visit FCSO units within the ACDC facility and requested to interview inmates in FCSO custody.

Because notice to ACDC does not constitute notice to FCSO, the staff working the FCSO units within ACDC were unaware of the investigator's visit.

The resulting confusion was not intended to hinder ACRB investigators from interviewing inmates. Instead, it was a result of FCSO staff exercising due diligence to adhere to policies and procedures while safeguarding the rights of individuals under their care.

To that end, the FCSO is working to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will provide standard operating procedures for inmate interviews at FCSO facilities and ensure a process of accountability and efficiency as FCSO and ACRB work to meet their respective missions for the constituents they are sworn to serve.

**ABOUT THE FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**: The mission of the Fulton County Sheriff's Office is Service; through laser-focused efforts to protect the citizens of Fulton County with coordinated law enforcement operations, special strategic teams, and community outreach methods. The Sheriff's Office is constitutionally responsible for the security of all courtrooms, executing arrest warrants, and serving civil papers. In addition, the Sheriff's Office is responsible for the administration and operation of the Fulton County Jail.