



PATRICK "PAT" LABAT
FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF

FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

185 CENTRAL AVENUE, S. W. 9TH FLOOR
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303
(404) 612-5100

WWW.FCSOGA.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2023

Sheriff Patrick "Pat" Labat Announces Sweeping Changes at the Fulton County Jail

Atlanta, GA – After reviewing preliminary evidence gathered during the internal investigation being conducted by the Office of Professional Standards (OPS), Sheriff Patrick "Pat" Labat is announcing sweeping changes at the Fulton County Jail.

Collectively, the executive team that's been in place has more than 65 years of jail administration and law enforcement experience. When leveraged at its very best, that experience can be invaluable. However, it can also lend itself to complacency, stagnation & settling for the status quo.

"It's clear to me that it's time, past time, to clean house." At an executive staff meeting held over the weekend Sheriff Labat asked for, received, and accepted the resignations of the Chief Jailer, Assistant Chief Jailer and Assistant Chief Jailer, Criminal Investigative Division.

In addition, the Fulton County Sheriff's Office is reviewing all legal options to change medical vendors and enter into a new contract with a provider that can effectively, consistently and compassionately deliver the best standard of care.

Investigators are still doing important work examining the circumstances that led to Mr. LaShawn Thompson's tragic death. That work includes the ongoing OPS investigation and an investigation being conducted by the Atlanta Police Department, which was the responding agency. Once those investigations are completed, the full investigative package will be handed over to the Georgia Bureau of Investigations for review.

"Most importantly, we want to, once again, extend our sincere condolences to the family of Mr. LaShawn Thompson," said Sheriff Patrick 'Pat' Labat. "The final investigative report will not ease the family's grief or bring their loved one back, but it is my hope and expectation that it provides a full, accurate and transparent account of the facts surrounding Mr. Thompson's death so that it provides all of the answers they are seeking and deserve."

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Note to Media: In an effort to ensure accurate reporting, the Fulton County Sheriff's Office is issuing the following clarifications regarding information included in our news release dated Friday, April 14, 2023:

- The \$500k emergency expense was approved in September and services were rendered at that time. That mitigation was in addition to prior ongoing and routine mitigation services.
- Detainee transfers began shortly after Sheriff Labat assumed office in 2021 and are ongoing. Sheriff Labat has sought additional transfers in light of this tragedy with a total of 673 detainees currently housed in other municipalities at an average cost of \$47k per day. Efforts to transfer detainees out of Rice Street are ongoing.

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.

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