



## FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 29, 2024**

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### **Security Services Contract at the Fulton County Jail**

**ATLANTA, GA** – The Fulton County Sheriff's Office today announced that it is facing a significant budget crisis, prompting the end of a contract supplying security officers to the Fulton County Jail. As of August 29, there is an outstanding balance of \$1,076,464.67 owed to Strategic Security Corp. (SSC) for three months. A funding shortfall for this contract has created an emergency situation.

This exigent circumstance has enabled us to establish new mechanisms and procedures to address this situation by expediting contingent hiring. Nearly 50 SSC employees came to the jail this evening and were giving conditional offers of employment as a security specialist. This is a permanent and fulltime position with benefits. Some employees that were scheduled to work tonight were able to work immediately after completing Fulton County employment paperwork.

SSC sent a communication to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and FCSO on the morning of August 29, 2024, that they would no longer be providing security services to the jail as of *Friday, August 30, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.* Today, during negotiations today between SSC and FCSO to determine an amicable resolution, SSC contract employees received a text message directing them to abandon their posts. In these text messages, SSC advised their employees that, effective immediately, the contract had ended, and they would be clocked out by SSC at 2:15 p.m. SSC further advised their employees to not report to work in the future. These actions created an immediate safety issue within the Fulton County Jail. Additional personnel from all FCSO divisions were deployed to staff the areas of the jail that were left abandoned.

Historically, FCSO has been severely underfunded in every aspect of our organization. This is an issue that our team has been actively addressing with Fulton County Government officials since 2021.

"Tonight, as I addressed the nearly 50 women and men who were interested in maintaining employment, my team and I were thanked for the opportunity," said Sheriff Labat.

**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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