



FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PATRICK "PAT" LABAT
FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF

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Sheriff Labat Announces Upcoming Changes to Misdemeanor Intake Protocols at the Fulton County Jail

Atlanta, GA – Forthcoming and pursuant to the Order of the Sheriff, the Fulton County Sheriff's Office will stop accepting misdemeanor arrestees into the Fulton County Jail with limited exceptions. Cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault or aggravated misdemeanor circumstances will continue to be accepted.

In October 2025, Sheriff Patrick "Pat" Labat sought a formal legal opinion from the Office of the Fulton County Attorney regarding the Sheriff's authority and responsibility relative to the intake of misdemeanor arrestees into the Fulton County Jail. This request was initiated amid ongoing concerns surrounding jail overcrowding and the deteriorating conditions of the facilities.

Upon receiving the opinion from the Fulton County Attorney's Department on May 13, 2026, Sheriff Labat immediately resumed discussions with police chiefs, other law enforcement partners, mayors, and Fulton County justice partners to better understand the overall impact on their daily operations and our communities any changes would cause.

The Sheriff's Office acknowledges the Board of Commissioner's resolution regarding misdemeanor intake. "As the Sheriff, it is my responsibility to implement a pathway

forward that aligns with what is best for our residents, community public safety, and the consent decree,” said Sheriff Labat.

With a planned implementation date of July 1, 2026, we will use the time now through the end of June to continue to thoughtfully consult with our Justice Partners and hold a town hall meeting to educate the citizens on how this change will affect the community.

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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