

the Southerner
An upbeat paper for a downtown school

Midtown High School
929 Charles Allen Dr. NE, Atlanta, GA 30309

EDITORIAL BOARD

Shay Bowman	Jamie Marlowe
Alannah Edwards	Maddie Shaw
Lucia Gravel	Katie Sigal
Greta Gustafson	Aran Sonnad-Joshi
Carolyn Harty	Sayan Sonnad-Joshi
	Archer Streelman

Proposed 7 p.m. curfew encourages misconduct, not good behavior

Following a shooting at Atlantic Station that killed a 12-year-old and 15-year-old the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Atlanta City Councilwoman Keisha Waites claims that stricter curfew guidelines for those under the age of 16, including a 7 p.m. curfew, will prevent future violence from occurring.

But, the implementation of Waites's proposed curfew would actually raise the youth crime rate, as studies by Campbell Collaboration show that crime rates among youth increase after strict curfews are applied

On Nov. 26, two Atlanta Public Schools students were killed during an altercation at Atlantic Station, resulting in two other APS students, a 15-year-old and a 16-year-old, being arrested and charged with two counts of murder, aggravated assault and a gang-related charge. Since the shooting, police have considered possibilities of increased security at the shopping center. Waites recognized the urgency of surveillance, and proceeded to suggest the new curfew time of 7 p.m. for those under the age of 17.

Currently, Atlanta imposes an 11 p.m. curfew on minors. Waites assures that the curfew wouldn't apply to those working. The legislation would also allow parents to chaperone young people to places such as shopping centers after 7 p.m.

The proposed legislation will also require any location that has experienced patterns of violence to integrate commercial-grade cameras into the Atlanta Police Department's Video Integration Center, programming that enables 9-1-1 operators to have access to the cameras.

While Waites agrees that an enforced curfew is a step in the right direction to end gun violence, she thinks that violence is a result of unmet needs such as a lack of affordable housing or low-paying wages.

While Waites's proposed curfew would seem to curb

the recent growth of crime, previous enforcements of such regulations have shown to be ineffective in reducing crime, and actually encourage misbehavior. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, youth curfews have been shown to discriminate against youth while criminalizing noncriminal behavior like going out to dinner or a movie. Additionally, youth curfews have been shown to increase the likelihood of young people, especially young people of color, becoming involved in crime.

Curfews damage relationships between police and youth of color, further increasing juvenile victimization and overall crime. Youth of color are considerably more likely to be arrested and questioned by police officers for breaking curfew, which contributes to the already monumental racial disparities in the United States justice system, and further traps people of color stuck in low-income communities and cycles of crime.

A study published in 2015 by the Campbell Collaboration questioned the validity of Washington D.C.'s juvenile curfew to reduce gun violence. Using audio sensor data, the authors found that gunfire incidents were significantly more frequent when the curfew was enforced due to the fact that curfews result in the removal of bystanders, reducing their deterrent effects on street crime.

While further restrictions on youth activity and gathering spaces may appear to prevent violence, previous studies and examples have proved that it simply encourages disobedience. Not only is the implementation of a curfew a quick reaction to previous altercations, it is an ineffective solution to a long-term problem. And as Waites stated, the root of youth violence lies in socioeconomic and resourcing problems, priorities Atlanta should be considering before the enforcement of a curfew. □

? ? QUESTION OF THE ? ? ? ? MONTH ? ?

If you could have dinner with anyone dead or alive, who would it be and why?



“ Thom Yorke, the leading singer of Radiohead. I really like his music style.

Caroline Connors
Sophomore



“ Elon Musk, he's really smart and rich; so I bet I could learn something from him.”

Jayden Price
Freshman



“ Harry Styles for sure. I just really love him and his music, I think it's so fun.

Jo Anderson
Junior



“ Cristiano Ronaldo, I admire him a lot because he's a really amazing soccer player.”

Matthew Weldegaber
Freshman

the Southerner Policy Statement

The Southerner is an open forum newspaper published eight times a year by student journalists at Midtown High School. The views expressed in The Southerner do not necessarily express the opinions or the policies of Midtown High School's faculty, administration, adviser or students. □

CORRECTIONS

It is the policy of the Southerner to correct all errors. You may submit a correction to thesoutherneronline.com



Letter to the Editor



Gentrification, rising affluence, lift Midtown Cluster's test scores

Dear Editors,

As gentrification of the Midtown area continues, standardized tests scores for the cluster will rise.

Many factors contribute to a school's standardized test scores besides what goes on in the classroom. Everything from nutrition to sleep patterns to household stability to parent education levels can all impact students' performance on standardized tests. Most of the non-classroom factors are tied up with socioeconomic status.

While the number of school-age children in the Midtown cluster continues to rise, the racial and socioeconomic make up of the cluster has changed dramatically over

the past five years. Low-income families are being forced out of their single-family homes by rising property taxes and out of apartments as buildings are torn down to build new apartment buildings. While it is true that many of these new developments include low income and Section 8 options, families need to find housing immediately and cannot remain homeless while waiting for the new buildings to be built. These families are often forced to move out of the cluster to find affordable housing and are not likely to return.

As more affluent people move into the Midtown area, the achievement gap between low-income students and other

students will decrease because the number of students in the lower socioeconomic category are decreasing in the cluster.

People with more money are the only ones who will be able to afford to live in the area and statistically, this is likely to mean a higher average education level among adult residences. Research indicates that children from low-socioeconomic status households and communities develop academic skills slower than children from higher socioeconomic status groups.

For instance, a low socioeconomic status in childhood is related to poor cognitive development, language, memory and socioemotional processing. As the dynamic

changes in the Midtown area related to income, an increase in student test scores will follow.

This is not because the quality of educational instruction improves, but because students with a higher socioeconomic status will enter school knowing more words, having more educational experiences and more prepared to learn. Ultimately, these factors will translate to Midtown High School having higher scores on state mandated Milestones, the SAT, and ACT in the future. □

Susan Ramsey
Teacher

Southerner Staff 2022-2023

An upbeat paper for a downtown school

Editors-in-Chief: Greta Gustafson, Jamie Marlowe, Aran Sonnad-Joshi, Sayan Sonnad-Joshi, Archer Streelman
Managing Editors: Shay Bowman, Alannah Edwards, Lucia Gravel, Carolyn Harty, Maddie Shaw, Katie Sigal
Associate Managing Editors: Cate Barton, Ally Bliss, Shea Edwards, Abby Hyken, Stella Maximuk, Sierra Pape, Anna Rafferty, Tori Williams, Devin Tabourn
News Section Editors: Shalin Bhatia,

Diana Jachman
Comment Section Editor: Lily Rachwalski
Lifestyle A&E Section Editors: Connie Erdozain, Hannah Silver, Emma Young,
Sports Section Editors: Farris Duwayri, Sam Silcock
Social Media: Lucia Gravel, Katie Sigal
Multimedia Editor: Diana Jachman
Photographer: Emilia Weinrobe
Staff: Owen Cummings, Sarah Land, Tessa Randall, Charlie Kane, Meredith Bell, Abby Ippen, Maya Rallu, Liam

Geissler-Norseng, Molly Thompson, Kate Durden, Sinclair Richman, Shumi Abboushi, Carys Brightwell, Megan Scarano, Ellie Palaian, Audrianna Kisley
Advisor: Del Ellerton

The Southerner, a member of GSPA, SIPA, CSPA, Quill & Scroll and NSPA, is a monthly student publication of: Midtown High School 929 Charles Allen Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30309

Email: southerner@thesoutherneronline.com

The Southerner welcomes submissions, which may be edited for grammar, inappropriate language and length. Please submit articles or letters using the "Submit a letter to the editor" page at our website, thesoutherneronline.com. Subscriptions are also available online.