



PATRICK "PAT" LABAT
FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF

FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Statement From the Fulton County Sheriff's Office

Atlanta, GA - The Fulton County Sheriff's Office confirms an incident, which occurred on February 5th at the Fulton County Jail, is under investigation. Two inmates were injured and treated at Grady Hospital. Both have since returned to the Fulton County Jail. Once the investigation is complete, every detainee involved in the altercation and every detainee who brandished a weapon will face additional charges.

As is always the case, the results of the completed investigation will also help form any decisions made about changes in policies and procedures. These dangerous confrontations are exactly why Sheriff Patrick Labat has implored the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to approve critical funding for a new facility.

For the first time since the jail's existence, we started collecting data last May as it relates to safety and security concerns. The Fulton County Sheriff's Office routinely does security rounds, and has conducted nearly 100 shakedowns the last 8 months. Fulton County Sheriff's Office deputies and detention officers have confiscated more than 1500 shanks (homemade knives) and have responded to more than 150 stabbings, or attempted stabbings.

Those numbers are of grave concern but only tell part of the story when it comes to the urgent need for a new facility. Housing detainees in a congregant setting comes with inherent risk that only intensifies as a result of overcrowding. While Sheriff Labat continues to push for long-term solutions he's also working aggressively on short-term solutions including reducing the population of non-violent offenders and negotiating for safe housing with other counties that have availability. Because of obvious security concerns, FCSO is not able to release specific details about staffing assignments but the department is offering unprecedented hiring bonuses, and approved salary increases to recruit and retain personnel to help combat critical staffing challenges.

Sheriff Labat has also deployed a tip line that is available to anyone who has a concern about safety and security within the jail. The Fulton County Sheriff's Office has a free app, available in the Google Play, and Apple App stores. In the app, residents have the ability to submit a tip, or a complaint.

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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