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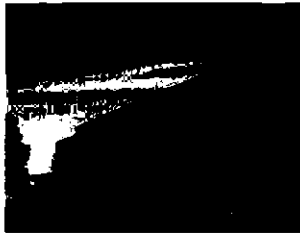
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**Economic development, image and safety top priorities for Fulton Industrial CID**



Dominique Huff • Tue, Jan 29, 2013  
**SOUTH FULTON**-Celebrating its second anniversary, the Fulton Industrial CID is determined to clean up the corridor, evolve and revitalize the business community.

With a newly appointed executive director, Gil Prado, the corridor is focusing on cleaning up the roadway, developing a master plan, attracting new businesses and retaining existing ones.

"We are changing the image and perception of Fulton Industrial by involving all stakeholders," he said. "We are working with the county on the crime, safety and zoning."

The CID has taken over trash pickup and mowing the roadways from the county. Prado states that one can see someone picking up the trash and cleaning up the corridor four days a week. This is done from the Fastnal property near Campbellton Road up to the Fulton County Airport.

Prado reports that a Master Plan for the corridor is being developed. With this plan, various components such as landscape, streetscapes, transportation improvements and zoning adjustments are being considered. The ultimate goal is to get the county to adopt the plan and enforce it.

"Transportation is very important on many levels. We must look at transit services to get workers back and forth from the area," he explained. "We want to ensure that trucks can turn safely into their destinations along with increasing pedestrian safety."

Safety is major importance for the CID as it ties into the perception of Fulton Industrial. Known for drug dealing, prostitution, loitering, vagrancy and other issues, Prado states people must feel safe in the area.

"For us to do our work, people need to feel safe. Rather it's a business owner, worker or patron, we are focusing on safety," he said. "If patrons don't feel safe, then a business is not going to survive. If business owners don't feel safe, they are not going to invest nor build here."

The Fulton County Police Department has engaged in many safety blitzes from crime sweeps, increased patrol and traffic law enforcement. On many occasions, roadblocks are conducted along Wendell Drive. The department is installing cameras along the corridor.

"We are working with the entire legal system to ensure those responsible for committing crimes are held fully accountable. The county is even building a community court in the area," he said. "We are employing off duty officers to assist us in patrolling the area."

Economic development and redevelopment are included in the CID's vision for the area. A focus is on cleaning up the hotel business, attracting new industries and retaining the existing ones. Several hotels were shut down in recent years such as the Executive Inn, Mosley Motel and InHome Suites. Prado states that land use is the key to bringing the desired businesses.

"There is no reason why we can't have nice hotels here; we are next door to Six Flags. We want the hotel owners to be on board with the revitalization," he said.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

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- State Rep. Jones proposes increase in Fulton homestead exemption

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- Rapson leaves Union City for Fayette County
- Avery: Fairburn is on the road to recovery, revitalization
- Economic development, image and safety top priorities for Fulton Industrial CID
- Family Dollar fight comes to Old National

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- Douglas Sheriff seeks apprehension of Thornton Road robbery suspect

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- Layoffs, consolidation and position elimination proposed by East Point City Manager
- East Point Power: Raising utility rates beyond our control
- Maximum Effort: College Park burglaries down 24 percent, Old National crime down by 14 percent

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Wind: SSW 3 mph  
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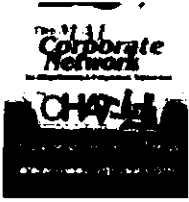
**Tonight's Outlook**

**Low: 37°F**  
Clear

10-day

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Weekend Weather  
Outlook: Partly Cloudy  
Destination Guides



Flags. We want the hotel owners to be on board with the revitalization," he said. "We desire to have a better linkage with Six Flags in the future. This will assist us in attracting sit down restaurants."

Many feel that the portion of the corridor near the I-20 interchange is hurting the corridor. Over the years, several major businesses including Hardee's, Checkers, Dairy Queen, Krystal, Ramada Inn, Motel 6 and Shoney's to name a few closed up shop. With the vacancies and empty land, transitioning of properties is a strategy that CID is looking at.

"We want to start phasing out the bad users and properties of crime. This is the first layer of redevelopment," he said. "This will happen within three to five years. We are looking at redeveloping I-20 into a town center development with offices and pedestrian friendly." Future plans include decorative features, light fixtures and other things to make people feel welcome to the area.

Considering that many warehouses are outdated for today's business usage, the CID wants to repurpose them.

"We can turn these properties into offices for creative services, microenterprises and other new usages that will bring more business and economic activity here," he said. "There are some that can serve as great retail outlets. We can look at Ellsworth Industrial in Atlanta for some pointers to achieve this."

By the end of the year, the CID wants all land owners involved their organization. It has already engaged in two growth spurts and wants to continue to grow.

"The great thing about a CID is that funds generated by it, stay here. We have owners putting their money where their mouth is," he concluded. "We want to get as much involvement as we can and have partners in this journey."

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