

COMMUNITY SAFETY

ATLANTA DOES NOT HAVE TOO FEW COPS; WE HAVE TOO MANY CRIMINALS.

Atlanta is a major distribution point for illegal drugs along the entire eastern seaboard. This drug problem has been further exacerbated by the opioid crisis that has beset Georgia and the rest of the country. Moreover, sex-trafficking and property crimes are a central problem. Although their presence provides some deterrence, police must wait for a crime to occur and then arrest. But the citizen has already been victimized and hurt. As an overall strategy, we must divert early offenders and vigorously rehabilitate them. Alternatively, we must incarcerate repeat offenders for extended periods. Intervention for newbies; long-term jail for veteran offenders. As part of this strategy, marijuana should be decriminalized statewide and the resources from that effort re-directed at "hard" illegal drugs and opioid abuse.