

## **Lakeside & Briarcliff Cityhood Groups Reach Map Agreement, Announce New City Name - LaVista Hills**

**Atlanta, GA, November 17, 2014** -- The Lakeside and Briarcliff cityhood groups are proud to announce a full merger. The two groups will move forward as one cityhood effort, partnering with DeKalb County neighborhoods to create a new city in North/Central DeKalb County to be called LaVista Hills, Georgia. This city will be the largest in DeKalb County with approximately 72,000 residents.

"Cityhood is about giving communities and citizens a choice," said Mary Kay Woodworth (formerly of Lakeside YES). "We have spoken at well over a hundred community meetings in the last two years, and we continue to listen and respond to what residents and businesses tell us and to community's desires. We are thankful to our volunteers and appreciate the continued community support and input shaping the new city's vision."

"I'm happy to see that Briarcliff and Lakeside could meet the House Governmental Affairs committee imposed deadline and look forward to helping them with their bill when they get to the Senate," State Sen. Fran Millar (SD-40).

A three-party agreement with the Tucker 2015 cityhood movement was unsuccessful by the November 15 deadline.

"We have made multiple offers to the Tucker cityhood movement and we're still hopeful we can reach agreement on the boundaries," said Allen Venet (formerly of the City of Briarcliff Initiative). "After merging the vision of Lakeside and Briarcliff, and presenting neighborhood survey and petition preference input to Tucker, we are disappointed that the groups were unable to reach an agreement by the November 15th deadline."

Over one thousand people in neighborhoods outside the Perimeter have signed petitions asking to be included in the new city as their preference over Tucker. Residents in this area often expressed feedback wanting a well-staffed and dedicated city police force actively patrolling the area. Residents and businesses within the LaVista Hills city limits would receive such services.

"Make no mistake," says Woodworth, "the November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline was handled with the utmost respect and urgency. Conversations started early and continued until the deadline, and we are disappointed that we were not able to reach agreement with Tucker, despite our best efforts. Tucker's claim they are remaining "consistent with our borders" reflects an unwillingness on their part to compromise, and more importantly, a refusal to acknowledge the desires of both residents and the business community.

Venet adds, "Tucker 2015's decision to include all of the Northlake commercial and industrial businesses would not allow for two thriving cities. We believe that the larger community -- both inside and outside I-285 -- have benefited from the Northlake business area for over 50 years, and that both LaVista Hills and Tucker should enjoy the benefit and the responsibility that comes with healthy business-community relations for the next 50 years."

Inside the Perimeter, surveys and petitions from neighborhoods were the driving factor to map the southwestern and southeastern borders, areas that were part of the original City of Briarcliff map. The views expressed by neighborhoods that are considering different paths as we all work toward a brighter future for DeKalb County were reflected in LaVista Hills' boundaries. The proponents of the City of LaVista Hills greatly appreciate the support that Briarcliff and Lakeside received from residents of areas that are not included in our combined map, and are committed to LaVista Hills agreeing to any future annexation requests from those areas.

In the coming weeks the combined group will continue work towards readying LaVista Hills for the 2015 legislative session.

City of LaVista Hills map is attached.

Interactive map with detail will be available later today: [www.lavistahillsyes.com](http://www.lavistahillsyes.com)

***About Lakeside YES & City of Briarcliff Initiative:***

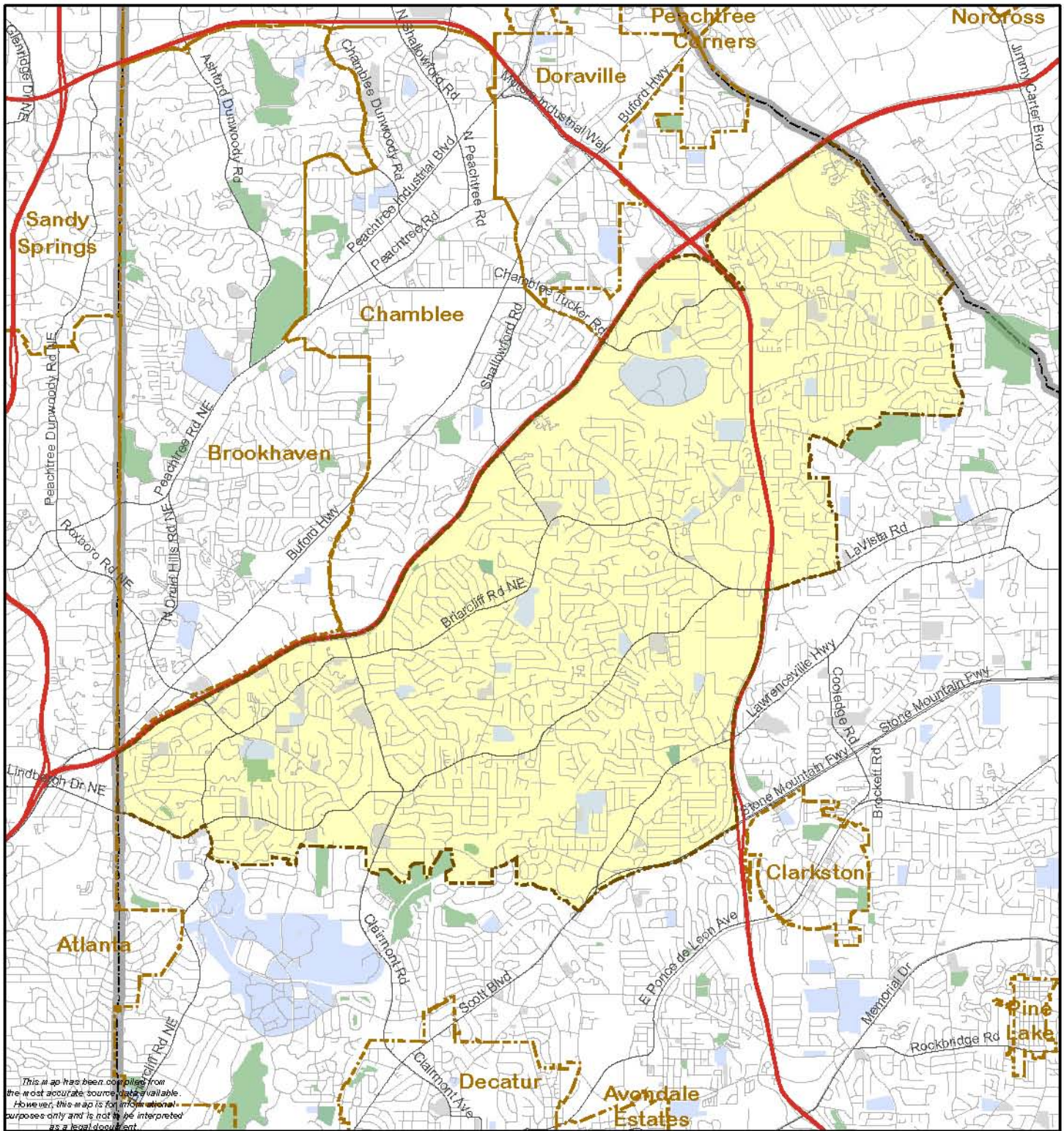
Lakeside YES and The City of Briarcliff Initiative, Inc. are non-profit corporations chartered under the laws of the state of Georgia. The cityhood groups have polled, surveyed and partnered with the local community to establish a joint map, and unified city name. LaVista Hills will bring local control to the community by overseeing police, zoning, permitting, parks and recreation, along with road and sidewalk maintenance as city-managed services. The groups seek to present LaVista Hills in the 2015 Georgia legislative session.

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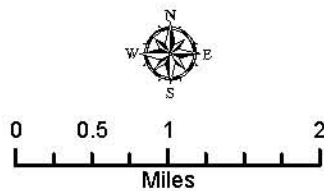
[lavistahillsyes@gmail.com](mailto:lavistahillsyes@gmail.com)



# City of LaVista Hills

DeKalb County, Georgia

November 15, 2014



-  Expressways
-  Major Roads
-  Education Facility
-  Parks and Recreation Area
-  Places of Worship
-  City of LaVista Hills
-  Municipal Boundary
-  County Boundary

