

	CITY OF JONESBORO, GEORGIA Agenda Item Summary	COUNCIL MEETING DATE: 08/03/26 Work Session
Requesting (Initiator): Councilman Alfred Dixon		Sponsor(s): Councilman Alfred Dixon
Item Title:	Council to consider approval of the Jonesboro Safe Home Initiative Pilot Program, resolution, and authorize the Jonesboro Police Department to administer the program utilizing community outreach funds in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00.	
Requested Action: Consider approval.		
Requirement for Council Action: Approval.		
Is this Item Goal Related? Yes. It supports the City's goals related to enhancing community engagement, public safety, and improving the quality of life through proactive emergency preparedness and prevention.		
Summary and Background: The Safe Home Initiative is a proactive community safety pilot designed to help prevent emergencies before they occur by providing eligible Jonesboro households with home safety resources, safety education, and emergency preparedness information. The program is intended to support families with young children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities through a fair, transparent, and accountable application and selection process. It also was developed in response to growing awareness of preventable home safety incidents and the City's commitment to investing in prevention rather than simply responding to emergencies. The Safe Home Initiative will be implemented in two phases. Phase I establishes a voluntary pilot program that provides eligible residents with home safety resources, including child safety door knob cover kits and, as funding and inventory allow, smart doorbell cameras. Residents will complete a single application to request available resources. If the number of eligible applications exceeds available inventory, recipients will be selected through a lottery drawing to ensure fairness, transparency, and equal opportunity. Safety devices will be distributed at the Jonesboro City Center while supplies last. As part of the same application process, residents will also have the opportunity to voluntarily participate in the Jonesboro Safe Home Registry by providing emergency preparedness information for household members who may require additional assistance during an emergency. Participation in the registry is voluntary, and all information will be maintained in accordance with applicable privacy and records requirements. The registry is intended to support future coordination with police, fire, and emergency medical services during emergency response efforts. Phase II will focus on expanding the program through grants, corporate sponsorships, community partnerships, and other external funding opportunities. Future enhancements may include additional home safety devices, expanded smart home technology, enhanced public safety partnerships, and other resources that strengthen emergency preparedness and improve home safety throughout the Jonesboro community.		

The Safe Home Initiative reflects the City of Jonesboro's commitment to proactive public safety by equipping residents with practical resources, strengthening partnerships, and building a safer, more resilient community.

Fiscal Impact: Not to exceed \$3,000

Exhibits Attached

- Jonesboro Safe Home Implementation Plan
- Resident Application
- Application Review and Selection Process
- Program Inventory and Budget
- Draft Resolution Approving the Safe Home Initiative Pilot Program
- Pilot Program Policies and Procedures
- FAQ

Staff Recommendation: Councilman Alfred Dixon is recommending approval.

FOLLOW-UP APPROVAL ACTION (City Manager)

Typed Name and Title

Date: Received 07/20/26

Signature



Jonesboro Safe Home Initiative

Pilot Proposal

Protecting Our Most Vulnerable Residents

Councilman Alfred Dixon, III, MPA, Kennedy Hood, and Landon Howard, MPA

Executive Summary

The Jonesboro Safe Home Initiative is a proactive public safety pilot designed to help prevent emergencies before they occur by providing home safety resources to Jonesboro residents and establishing a voluntary Safe Home Registry. The initiative focuses on supporting households with young children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities by providing practical tools that improve home safety while strengthening communication between residents and first responders.

This pilot represents an opportunity for the City of Jonesboro to lead with prevention, recognizing that simple, affordable safety measures can provide families with valuable time during an emergency.

The Need

Recent tragedies have highlighted the dangers associated with children wandering from home, particularly among children with autism and other developmental disabilities. Likewise, seniors living with dementia and residents with special needs often require unique considerations during emergency situations.

While no single program can eliminate every risk, local government has an opportunity to provide practical resources that increase home safety, promote awareness, and improve emergency preparedness.

The Jonesboro Safe Home Initiative is intended to serve as a preventative public safety program that helps families before emergencies occur rather than simply responding after tragedy strikes.

Initiative Goals

The Jonesboro Safe Home Initiative seeks to:

- Improve home safety for vulnerable residents.
- Reduce the risk of child wandering and other preventable emergencies.
- Increase awareness of home safety best practices.
- Establish a voluntary resident registry to improve emergency preparedness.
- Strengthen collaboration between residents and first responders.
- Position Jonesboro as a leader in preventative public safety.

Initiative Description

The Jonesboro Safe Home Initiative will launch as a voluntary pilot program that combines home safety resources with emergency preparedness through a single registration process.

Residents will be able to register online through the City's website to request available home safety devices and, if they choose, voluntarily provide emergency preparedness information for members of their household who may require additional assistance during an emergency.

Safety devices will be available for pickup at Jonesboro City Center while supplies last.

Participation in the registry will be completely voluntary, and resident information will be maintained in accordance with applicable privacy and security standards.

Pilot Initiative Components

The pilot will include:

- Approximately 150 child safety door knob covers
- Approximately 15 Ring doorbells (or comparable smart doorbell cameras)
- Home safety educational materials
- Water safety and wandering prevention resources
- Development of the online Jonesboro Safe Home Registry
- Community outreach and public awareness campaign

Jonesboro Safe Home Registry

The Jonesboro Safe Home Registry will provide residents with the option to voluntarily share emergency preparedness information about individuals living in their household who may require additional assistance during an emergency.

Examples may include:

- Autism
- Non-verbal individuals
- Dementia or Alzheimer's disease
- Mobility impairments
- Dependence on medical equipment
- Other emergency response considerations identified by the resident

The initial phase of the registry will establish the City's online registration infrastructure. As the program evolves, staff may explore future collaboration with police, fire, and emergency medical services to determine how this information can be appropriately utilized during emergency response while protecting resident privacy.

Fiscal Impact

Funding for the Jonesboro Safe Home Initiative Pilot Program shall not exceed \$3,000 from the Police Department Community Outreach line item to purchase approximately 150 child safety door knob covers, 15 Ring doorbells (or comparable smart doorbell cameras), marketing and educational materials, and establish the Jonesboro Safe Home Registry.

Staff Responsibilities

City staff will utilize existing resources to:

- Develop and maintain the online registration portal.
- Coordinate resident registration.
- Distribute safety devices.
- Conduct community outreach and education.
- Maintain program inventory.
- Pursue grants, sponsorships, and community partnerships to support future expansion.

Expected Outcomes

Upon implementation, the City expects to:

- Increase access to home safety resources.
- Improve emergency preparedness among participating households.
- Strengthen engagement between residents and public safety personnel.
- Establish the foundation for future public safety initiatives.
- Collect participation data to evaluate future program expansion.

Future Expansion

Following completion of the pilot, staff will evaluate participation, community feedback, and available funding opportunities. Future phases may include additional home safety devices, expanded smart home technology, enhanced partnerships with first responders, and grant-funded program growth.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Mayor and Council approve the Jonesboro Safe Home Initiative Pilot Program and authorize funding not to exceed \$3,000 from the Police Department Community Outreach budget for implementation.

Conclusion

The Jonesboro Safe Home Initiative reflects the City's commitment to proactive public safety. By investing in affordable home safety resources and strengthening emergency preparedness, Jonesboro can provide families with practical tools that may help prevent emergencies and save lives. This pilot Initiative is a modest investment with the potential to create a lasting impact on the safety and well-being of our community.