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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**New “Save #7 Coalition” emerges to fight Mayor Franklin’s decision to close a historic fire station providing essential services to Southwest Atlanta residents**

Coalition member and citizens of the surrounding neighborhoods to attend formal closing ceremony to honor the service of firefighter while continuing to protest city policy

**West End, Atlanta** – At 2:00PM on Monday July 14, 2008, an official ceremony is planned by City of Atlanta officials to commemorate the closing of Fire Station #7 in the Historic West End neighborhood of Atlanta, located at 535 W. Whitehall Street S.W. Members of an expanding network of civic minded groups will be in attendance to respectfully pay tribute to the often unsung heroes of the city, the Atlanta Fire Department and its dedicated employees. We are particularly grateful for the service provided by the firefighters stationed within our neighborhoods of NPU-T and the greater Southwest Atlanta area.

The **Save #7 Coalition** is a group of community leaders, residents, faith based organizations, and other allied groups whose goal is to stop the proposed closing of Fire Station #7 in the West End. This coalition currently includes the following organizations and is expanding hourly:

- West End Neighborhood Development, Inc (W.E.N.D)
- Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) T
- Good Shepherd Community Church
- Georgia STAND-UP
- Atlanta North Georgia Labor Council

Save #7 Coalition Concerns:

The closing of the fire station will have a large impact on the community and public safety in both the Historic West End, as well as surrounding neighborhoods through:

- Increased response times to fire emergencies
- Increases in Home and Rental Insurance Rates to residents
- Loss of a Major Community Asset

Coalition Demand:

The City of Atlanta must not close the historic Fire Station as announced and instead develop a budget plan that does not disproportionately impact public safety for the residents of the West End, NPU-T, City Council District 4, and the Southwest Atlanta region in general.