
MEMORANDUM

TO: ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY MAYOR AND COMMISSION
FROM: PAUL QUICK, CHAIR OF BIKEATHENS
SUBJECT: BICYCLE RECYCLING PROGRAM
DATE: JUNE 28, 2004
CC: BIKEATHENS BOARD

This memorandum updates the Mayor and Commission on the bike recycling pilot program that BikeAthens started thanks to the county's donation of 30 bikes culled from police impoundment last August. As you may recall, the goal of this program is to donate refurbished bikes to people identified by various social service agencies as in need of reliable, safe, free, and easy-to-maintain transportation.

As of June 28, 2004, volunteers have processed 20 of the 30 bikes. Fifteen of those have been repaired and five have been deemed beyond repair and are being used for spare parts. All repairs have been evaluated by at least one other mechanic. In addition to repairing, tuning, and cleaning the bikes, BikeAthens is equipping each bike with a lock, a full set of reflectors, a red taillight, and a white headlight. Each recipient will receive a helmet and basic instructions on safe bicycling operation and tire repair. All supplies have either been donated or been purchased by BikeAthens. An identifying number has been etched on the bottom bracket of each bike so that we can keep track of repairs and placement of bikes. Of the ten remaining bikes, four of which are children's bikes, we anticipate being able to refurbish six, using the other four for parts. In addition to the 30 bikes donated by Athens-Clarke County, we have received approximately ten additional bikes from individuals.

After developing a method for distributing refurbished bikes, BikeAthens collaborated with graduate students in UGA's School of Social Work to contact social service agencies. We are now in the process of distributing bikes. We have delivered two bikes to Hatten Howard at the Athens Homeless Shelter, who identified two responsible individuals who will have exclusive use of the bikes. In addition, we have placed one bike through Elizabeth Taxel at Catholic Social Services and one bike through Donna Tucker at the Boys and Girls Club of Athens. We are presenting working with Ed Smith, the youth outreach coordinator at Catholic Social Services, to develop a program in the Garnett Ridge community.

We anticipate completing the bike rebuilding component of the recycling program by the end August 2004, and will then focus all our efforts on distributing as many bikes as possible. We will evaluate the effectiveness of the program by gathering information from those recipients who agree to be contacted in the future about how they are using their bikes. When this data is gathered, BikeAthens will submit another report on the completion of this pilot project and on our plans to continue the program.

On behalf of BikeAthens, I would like to thank the Mayor and Commission for donating these bikes. In a small way, this program is trying to address the problem of transportation for those in our community who are unable to commute by car. If you have questions or concerns about the program, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Quick
pauquick@uga.edu
(706) 543-6507