

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 8, 2009**

Contact: Bahareh Azizi 404-704-4861 or [Bahareh.Azizi@VoteAzizi.com](mailto:Bahareh.Azizi@VoteAzizi.com)

## **Azizi calls for increased Atlanta police presence**

*Candidate qualifies for City Council District 6 race*

ATLANTA – Officially qualifying Wednesday as a candidate for Atlanta City Council, District 6, Bahareh Azizi said the need for greater police presence in the city’s neighborhoods, streets, schools and parks will be a top priority of hers as a council member.

“I will immediately work toward increasing the presence of police officers and safety patrol units in District 6 and the city of Atlanta,” Azizi said, citing the 20 percent increase in property crime, armed robberies and burglaries in Atlanta last year and a 38 percent jump in those crimes over the past two years. “We need to increase the number of active police officers on the streets and enhance the efficiency of the neighborhood, school and park patrols.”

Acknowledging the city’s tight budget situation, Azizi proposes innovative solutions to increase the number of active police officers at the lowest possible cost.

“If the budget does not allow the hiring of new police officers, I will work to hire retired police officers on a part-time basis to handle administrative duties, freeing up active police officers to patrol the streets,” Azizi said. “We also have the responsibility to take care of our police and fire departments, making sure they are working in excellent conditions and have the tools they need for effective service. I will work for effective and rapid 911 responses in all neighborhoods.”

Already actively taking steps to make residents safer, Azizi distributed whistles while visiting with neighbors in the district this past weekend. “Successful existing initiatives show that whistles, when blown continuously, are a good way for an individual to scare off an attacker and or attract help if he or she feels threatened,” said Azizi. “I know the people of Atlanta enjoy keeping active in the parks, and I thought this would provide them an extra layer of safety, when they are walking or jogging. It is simple initiatives like a whistle that we as residents can do to protect ourselves and help each other.

Azizi is a longtime resident of Midtown whose unique background in education, business and community service makes her the most qualified candidate in the District 6 election. She is determined to make a difference by addressing issues such as public safety, business growth, transportation and education. For more information, visit [www.VoteAzizi.com](http://www.VoteAzizi.com).

-end-