

Cobb Opinions: TELL US: Share thoughts on border watch groups forming here

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Body

The **border-watching** Minuteman Civil Defense Corps made its metro Atlanta debut Sunday at a **Cobb** pub. Minuteman organizer Todd Walker **told** 40 or so people that the influx of illegal immigrants is an invasion sponsored by Mexico.

"Our administration . . . is doing nothing to stop it. Actually, they're encouraging it," Walker said. ("Minutemen march far from **border**," AJC Metro News, Feb. 26).

Named for the militia that fought the British in the Revolutionary War, the Minutemen entered the national spotlight two years ago as a citizens **group** patrolling the U.S.-Mexico **border** and reporting illegal crossings.

Celebrated by those who believe they exposed the U.S. **Border** Patrol's inadequacy, the Minutemen have also earned critics who say they fan anti-immigrant sentiments and use inflammatory language.

The North Atlanta chapter is the third Minuteman **group** to **form** in Georgia in the past two months, joining the Northwest Georgia and Athens Area chapters.

Organizers say they are developing plans that could include surveillance of day labor pickup sites, protests at banks catering to illegal immigrants and rallies at city council and county commission meetings.

What do you think about the **formation** of such **groups** in metro Atlanta? Please explain. Send comments to cobbletters@ajc.com and include your full name, community and a daytime phone number.

Graphic

Photo: ELISSA EUBANKS / Staff
Eric Svenson awaits the start of the organizational meeting of the Minuteman **group**'s North Atlanta chapter.</ImageData*

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