

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
2 **DIRECTING THE COUNTY MANAGER AND COUNTY ATTORNEY TO CONDUCT AN**
3 **ASSESSMENT OF THE FEASIBILITY OF ALLOWING PRO BONO LEGAL CLINICS**
4 **TO SERVE AS A RESOURCE FOR CITIZENS FROM TIME TO TIME OR ON A**
5 **RECURRING BASIS AT FULTON COUNTY LIBRARIES, AND FOR OTHER**
6 **PURPOSES.**

7 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners aims to promote access
8 to legal assistance for Fulton County residents who desire to protect their rights,
9 understand the court system and necessary forms and court paperwork, obtain
10 assistance with landlord/tenant and family law issues, and for other matters; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes that access to
12 legal resources and information promotes the fair and just adjudication of court cases and
13 empowers residents to approach any legal issue with confidence, both in and outside the
14 courtroom; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the availability of legal assistance improves judicial efficiency and
16 alleviates the burden placed on judges and court staff to provide information to the public;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta legal community includes numerous non-profit legal
19 organizations and pro bono attorneys with experience providing free legal resources,
20 information, programming, and advice to the public; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Fulton County enjoys several productive partnerships with local legal
22 organizations and pro bono attorneys, such as the programs offered at the Justice
23 Resource Center located in the Fulton County Courthouse; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the excellent assistance provided at the Fulton County Courthouse
25 necessarily has logistical limitations due to a singular location downtown and the lack of
26 evening or weekend hours at the facility; and

1 **WHEREAS**, many Fulton County Library System locations are open during
2 evenings and weekends and are located throughout Fulton County, such that they are
3 well positioned to provide access to legal assistance to the public; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners desires that Fulton
5 County facilities and resources be available for pro bono clinics and other free legal
6 assistance programming to the greatest extent feasible without disruption to existing
7 Fulton County functions or undue burden on Fulton County employees; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners finds that it is in the best interest of its
9 citizens to determine the feasibility of allowing pro bono legal clinics to serve as a resource
10 for citizens from time to time or on a recurring basis at Fulton County libraries.

11 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fulton County Board of
12 Commissioners hereby directs the County Manager and the County Attorney to conduct
13 an assessment of the feasibility of allowing pro bono clinics to serve as a resource for
14 citizens from time to time or on a recurring basis by providing for free legal assistance
15 programs at facilities within the Fulton County Library System.

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Manager, in consultation with the
17 Director of the Fulton County Library System, shall include in this assessment the
18 availability of, and impact on, facilities, personnel, and existing Fulton County
19 programming and activities, and the extent to which such resources can be provided
20 equitably throughout Fulton County through the inclusion of facilities located in the
21 northern, central, and southern areas of Fulton County.

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Attorney shall include in this
2 assessment any legal requirements or limitations on the assistance that may be offered
3 at Fulton County libraries.

4 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this Resolution will take effect upon its adoption,
5 and that all ordinances, resolutions, and parts of ordinances and resolutions in conflict
6 with this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

7 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County,
8 Georgia, this 15th day of May, 2024.

9 **FULTON COUNTY BOARD**
10 **OF COMMISSIONERS**

11 **Sponsored by:**

12 _____
13 Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)

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15
16
17
18 ATTEST:

19 _____
20 Tonya R. Grier,
21 Clerk to the Commission

22
23 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

24 _____
25 Y. Soo Jo, County Attorney