

Proclamation

WHEREAS, The Southern Center for Human Rights was founded in 1976 as the Southern Prisoners Defense Committee by ministers and activists concerned about reinstatement of the death penalty and the conditions of prison and jails in the South; and



WHEREAS, the Southern Center for Human Rights has upheld its mission of working for equality, dignity, and justice for people impacted by the criminal legal system in the Deep South and fighting for a world free from mass incarceration, the death penalty, the criminalization of poverty, and racial injustice; and



WHEREAS, the Southern Center for Human Rights has been a leading force in litigating capital cases in the Deep South, including arguing and winning five death penalty cases at the United States Supreme Court, and successfully arguing before the Georgia Supreme Court that execution by electric chair constitutes cruel and unusual punishment; and



WHEREAS, the Southern Center for Human Rights worked with grassroots community organizations to lead efforts to uphold the rights of inmates, and has successfully engaged in litigation addressing inhumane conditions on inmates, and has been a critical partner to promote progress in criminal legal systems; and



WHEREAS, the Southern Center for Human Rights has had a profound impact on the landscape of the criminal legal system in the Deep South and has championed dignity-centered reframing of how we look at issues in our criminal legal system;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners commend the Southern Center for Human Rights for 50 years of advocacy in the courts, city halls, and General Assembly to advance equality, dignity, and justice for people impacted by the criminal legal system, and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 6, 2026, as "SOUTHERN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS APPRECIATION DAY" in Fulton County, Georgia.



Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Chair to the Commission

Attest:

Vice Chair

Clerk to the Commission

F U L T O N C O U N T Y