

1 A RESOLUTION BY THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
2 APPROVING THE FORM CONTRACT, ENTITLED "MEMORANDUM OF
3 AGREEMENT FOR THERAPY ANIMAL PROGRAMMING WITHIN THE FULTON
4 COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM" FOR USE IN THE FULTON COUNTY LIBRARY
5 SYSTEM THERAPY ANIMAL PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER
6 OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE SUCH FORM MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENTS
7 AND RELATED DOCUMENTS; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO
8 APPROVE THE FORM MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AS TO FORM AND TO
9 MAKE CHANGES THEREOF PRIOR TO EXECUTION; AND FOR OTHER RELATED
10 PURPOSES.

11
12 **WHEREAS**, Fulton County, Georgia is authorized to engage in and expend funds
13 for community development programs and activities; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Fulton County recognizes that there are benefits to having citizens
15 who are healthy, happy, and engaged in their community; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Library System is established under O.C.G.A. § 20-
17 5-40 and Fulton County Code ("FCC") Chapter 26 in order to promote the establishment
18 of public library service throughout the state; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Library System, in its constitution, states that it
20 "...serves as a cultural and intellectual center that enriches the community and empowers
21 all residents with essential tools for lifelong learning."

22 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Library System's Therapy Pet Program is designed
23 to assist young library patrons to encourage young, special needs, English as a Second
24 Language learners, or limited readers to enjoy the process of reading aloud without a
25 critical audience; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Library System's Therapy Pet Program provides
27 an opportunity for younger readers to be paired with dogs, cats, and other small,
28 domesticated animals specially trained to interact with youth; and

1 **WHEREAS**, providing therapy pets as an audience has been shown to reduce the
2 anxiety in young and learning readers; and

3 **WHEREAS**, through the Fulton County Library System’s Therapy Pet Program ,
4 Fulton County helps readers who otherwise may feel uncomfortable reading aloud, but
5 with the help of an impartial therapy pet, can learn to excel as a reader; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Library System’s Therapy Pet Program is
7 contingent upon the participation of contractors which train therapy pets to safely interface
8 with program participants; and

9 **WHEREAS**, there are a number of organizations made up entirely of volunteers or
10 with non-profit or other small business status that provide therapy pet services; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the particular organizations available to provide therapy pet
12 programming throughout the county may change from time-to-time due to the volunteer
13 nature of the work; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners finds it necessary to develop a form
15 Memorandum of Agreement in which Fulton County will contract with independent
16 contractors capable of providing pet therapy programs and who meets certain conditions;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, the Memorandum of Agreements with the participating contractors
19 are necessary to ensure safety and health protections for all involved, to ensure all
20 contractors are providing training and certification of animals for participation in the
21 program, and to ensure liability protections for the county; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners further finds that it is in the best interest
23 of the County to utilize a standard form contract with eligible contractors, entitled,

1 "MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR THERAPY PET PROGRAMMING WITHIN
2 THE FULTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM," in order to ensure flexibility with the
3 contractors selected and the locations where the Program will be provided, and to ensure
4 that the therapy animals best serve the interest of its citizens that may best benefit from
5 the program; and

6 **WHEREAS**, for purposes of efficiency and expediency in County operations, the
7 Board of Commissioners deems it to be in the best interest of the County to authorize the
8 County Manager or his designee to execute these form Memorandum of Agreements and
9 related documents, when recommended by the Fulton County Library System.

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fulton County Board of
11 Commissioners hereby approves the attached form contract entitled "MEMORANDUM
12 OF AGREEMENT FOR THERAPY PET PROGRAMMING WITHIN THE FULTON
13 COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM," in substantially the form attached here to Attachment 1,
14 for use in the Fulton County Library System's Therapy Pet Program.

15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Manager or his designee is
16 delegated the authority to authorize, complete, and execute the form Memorandum of
17 Agreement.

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Attorney is hereby authorized to
19 approve the Form Memorandum of Agreement and related documents as to form and to
20 make necessary modifications thereto in order to protect the interest of Fulton County,
21 prior to execution by the County Manager or his designee.

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that upon execution of a Form Memorandum of
2 Agreement by the County Manager, such Memorandum of Agreement shall be spread on
3 the minutes of the Board of Commissioners at a subsequent meeting.

4 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall become effective upon its
5 adoption, and that all prior actions inconsistent with this Resolution and parts of
6 resolutions in conflict with this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

7 **SO PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this 21st day of December, 2022.

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

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15 _____
16 Robert L. Pitts, Chairman

17
18 **ATTEST:**

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

23
24 **APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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27 _____
28 Y. Soo Jo, County Attorney
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