

1 **A RESOLUTION CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE FULTON COUNTY**
2 **VETERANS EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION, INC., A DOMESTIC NON**
3 **PROFIT ENTITY; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY MANAGER**
4 **AND COUNTY ATTORNEY TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO FORM**
5 **AND IMPLEMENT THIS ENTITY CONSISTENT WITH THE LAWS OF THE**
6 **STATE OF GEORGIA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

7
8 **WHEREAS**, the brave men and women serving in the United States'
9 Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard demonstrate a resolute
10 spirit and unmatched selflessness in the performance of a civic duty that is
11 beneficial to all citizens of the United States; and

12 **WHEREAS**, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics, as of July 1,
13 2019, Fulton County, Georgia was estimated to be home to approximately
14 50,000 United States military veterans; and

15 **WHEREAS**, an American Community Survey Report published by the
16 U.S. Census Bureau in June 2020 found, among other things, that military
17 veterans are more likely to suffer from trauma-related injuries, substance abuse,
18 and mental health disorders than people who have never served in the armed
19 forces. Moreover, post-9/11 veterans had a 43 percent chance of having a
20 service-connected disability while the percentage of female veterans is
21 increasing; and

22 **WHEREAS**, according to the United States Department of Veterans
23 Affairs, U.S. service members returning to civilian life have difficulty reconnecting
24 with family and re-establishing a role in the family; joining or creating a
25 community; preparing to enter to the civilian workforce or returning to a civilian
26 job; creating structure; providing food, clothing and housing for themselves; re-
27 establishing services such as medical, dental, insurance, or other service

1 benefits; and are at greater risk for suicide and homelessness than those who
2 have not served in the U.S. military; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners believes it will
4 benefit all citizens of Fulton County to assist the veteran population residing in
5 Fulton County with their transition to civilian life and dealing with the unique
6 challenges facing the veteran population through the formation of veterans
7 organization that will focus on the wellbeing of veterans residing in Fulton
8 County, Georgia.

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of
10 Commissioners of Fulton County hereby creates and establishes the Fulton
11 County Veterans Empowerment Commission, Inc., a domestic nonprofit entity
12 (the "Veterans Commission"), effective upon its formation and recognition as a
13 legal entity under the laws of the State of Georgia.

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Manager, with the
15 assistance of the County Attorney, are hereby authorized and directed to take all
16 necessary steps to form and implement the Veterans Commission consistent
17 with the laws of the State of Georgia.

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Veterans Commission shall,
19 among other things, function to empower veterans to improve their health and
20 wellbeing, and provide information and resources to veterans and their families
21 on available benefits, medical care, social support and financial opportunities.

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Veterans Commission shall serve
23 as an advisory body to the Board of Commissioners to investigate and provide

1 recommendations to the Board of Commissioners of priorities, objectives, and
2 policies which will support the veteran population in Fulton County and to
3 research and apply for grant funding and to otherwise make funding
4 recommendations for public and private programs which will benefit the veteran
5 population of Fulton County, Georgia.

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Veterans Commission shall have
7 the following members: Each Commissioner shall appoint two (2) members.
8 Such appointees shall be residents of, or work in, Fulton County and shall have
9 military experience or expertise in the areas affecting military veterans.

10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that appointees to the Veterans
11 Commission shall serve three (3) year terms, with such term subject to the
12 discretion of the appointing Commissioner, who can remove a member for cause,
13 otherwise such members may continue to serve beyond his/her term until a
14 successor is appointed.

15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Attorney's Office or its
16 designee is hereby authorized to be the sole legal advisor to the Veterans
17 Commission, until it is fully operational, and this office or a designee shall
18 prepare and file the Veterans Commission's formation documents including
19 articles of incorporation, bylaws, and other necessary documents for this body, to
20 ensure that the Veterans Commission is aligned with the goals and purposes as
21 outlined in this enabling resolution.

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that members of the Veterans Commission
23 who are affiliated with organizations that receive funding either directly or as a

1 sub-recipient of any grant administered by Fulton County or any related agency
2 that deals with veterans matters as outlined in this resolution must recuse
3 themselves from discussions and voting on any recommendations pertaining to
4 the allocation or award of funding for veterans related projects or programs
5 controlled by Fulton County. This restriction will not apply to lobbying efforts for
6 veterans funding on the state or federal levels.

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that monetary compensation will not be
8 provided to appointed members or other volunteers for participation on the
9 Veterans Commission.

10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Manager or his/her
11 designee will provide meeting space and accommodations for the Veterans
12 Commission, until it is fully operational, and the Veterans Commission shall
13 report on the findings and proceedings of its meetings to the Board of
14 Commissioners after each meeting and annually through the Clerk to the
15 Commission.

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall become effective
17 upon its adoption, and that all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict with
18 this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

19 **SO PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this 16th day of December, 2020_____.

20 FULTON COUNTY BOARD
21 OF COMMISSIONERS

22
23 SPONSORED BY:

24
25
26 By: _____
27 Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Esq.
28 Vice-Chairman, District 5

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ATTEST:

Tonya R. Grier
Clerk to the Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Patrise Perkins-Hooker
County Attorney

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