

1 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 101 (GENERAL PROVISIONS AND COUNTY  
2 GOVERNING AUTHORITY), ARTICLE II (COUNTY GOVERNING AUTHORITY),  
3 DIVISION 1 (GENERALLY) OF THE FULTON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO  
4 MODIFY CODE SECTION 101-42, TO AFFORD THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL  
5 AFFAIRS A MINIMUM TIMEFRAME TO COMPLETE PROCLAMATIONS REQUESTED  
6 BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS; TO ESTABLISH THE FORM, SCOPE AND  
7 SUBJECT MATTER OF PROCLAMATIONS; AND TO ASSESS A TWENTY DOLLAR  
8 (\$20.00) ADMINISTRATIVE FEE FOR EVERY DRAFTED PROCLAMATION  
9 REQUESTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS; TO LIMIT THE ANNUAL  
10 NUMBER OF PROCLAMATIONS SPREAD ON THE MINUTES AND PRESENTED AT  
11 THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONER MEETINGS; TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF  
12 PROCLAMATIONS TO ONLY ONE (1) PER COMMISSIONER AT EACH BOARD OF  
13 COMMISSIONERS MEETING AS ADOPTED AT THE JANUARY 16, 2024 SPECIAL  
14 CALLED MEETING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

15 WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IX, Sec. 2, Par. 1(a) (Home rules of counties) “[t]he  
16 governing authority of each county shall have legislative power to adopt clearly  
17 reasonable ordinances, resolutions, or regulations relating to its property, affairs, and  
18 local government for which no provision has been made by general law and which is not  
19 inconsistent with this [Georgia] Constitution or any local law applicable thereto;” and

20 WHEREAS, Fulton County Code (“FCC”) § 101-42 (adopted by Resolution 95-  
21 0623 on May 17, 1995) authorizes Commissioners of the Board of Commissioners  
22 (“BOC”) to present proclamations at regularly scheduled BOC Meetings; and

23 WHEREAS, proclamations are drafted by staff in the Fulton County Department of  
24 External Affairs (“Staff”); and

25 WHEREAS, proclamations are drafted at the request of individual members of the  
26 BOC (“Commissioners”); and

27 WHEREAS, FCC § 101-42 places no limit on the number of proclamations a  
28 Commissioner may request from Staff, prescribes no timeframe governing the request for  
29 creation of proclamations, places no restrictions on the scope or subject matter of  
30 proclamations, does not place a limit on the number of proclamations that can be

presented at BOC meetings, and does not require Commissioners to pay an administrative fee for proclamations requested from Staff; and

**WHEREAS**, in the absence of such parameters and constraints, Staff may be inundated with requests for numerous proclamations with short turnaround times; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous proclamations with short turnaround times overburdens the resources of the Fulton County External Affairs Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the presentation of numerous proclamations could delay the BOC's consideration of matters on the consent and regular agendas; and

**WHEREAS**, at a duly called and advertised Special Called meeting held on January 16, 2024, the BOC took official action via Agenda Item # 24-0020(III) to amend its Procedural Rules to limit the number of proclamations to only one (1) per Commissioner at each meeting,

**WHEREAS**, the BOC finds it prudent to amend the corresponding Fulton County Code to codify the action taken at the Special Called meeting pertaining to proclamations and to provide additional safeguards regarding the creation of proclamations by Staff.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners hereby amends Fulton County Code § 101-42 to provide staff of the Fulton County Department of External Affairs a minimum of three business days to complete any requests for proclamations, made by any member of the Board of Commissioners.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that Fulton County Code § 101-42 is hereby amended to limit the presentation of proclamations to only one proclamation per Commissioner at each Board of Commissioners meeting, to limit the number of

1 proclamations spread on the minutes or presented at the Board of Commissioner  
2 meetings by each Commissioner to seventy per year, to provide that individuals or  
3 organizations are limited to receipt of a maximum of one proclamation per calendar year,  
4 to provide that members of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners may only issue  
5 proclamations to residents or organizations within their respective districts, to provide an  
6 exception to permit individual Commissioners of the Board of Commissioners to issue  
7 proclamations to residents or organizations outside of the Commissioners' respective  
8 districts, but only upon request by the outside resident or organization, and to provide that  
9 proclamations presented at Board of Commissioners meetings must be signed by at least  
10 two members of the Board of Commissioners.

11 **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that Fulton County Code § 101-42 is hereby  
12 amended to encourage limitation of the subject matter of proclamations presented at  
13 regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meetings to milestone birthdays 90 and  
14 above, milestone wedding anniversaries 50 years and above, retirements after at least  
15 50 years of service, local events that enhance public awareness, significant achievements  
16 such as state or national awards, state or national sports championships, and/or military  
17 honors, significant public service and/or heroic actions, significant community events such  
18 as annual festivals, parades, grand openings, and/or unveilings, and organizations,  
19 individuals or events which have a direct connection to Fulton County.

20 **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that Fulton County Code § 101-42 is hereby  
21 amended to discourage the presentation of proclamations for national organizations that  
22 do not have a local contact or connection, the endorsement of extreme ideological  
23 positions, and matters of political controversy.



**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that Fulton County Code § 101-42 is hereby amended to provide that proclamations may recognize a day, week, or month.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that members of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners are encouraged to issue letters of congratulations or condolences in lieu of proclamations.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that Fulton County Code § 101-42 is hereby amended to provide a twenty dollar (\$20.00) administrative fee to be assessed to any member of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners whose requested proclamation is spread on the minutes of a Board of Commissioners meeting, with such fee to be transferred from the requesting Commissioner's district budget to the Fulton County Department of External Affairs.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that all of the foregoing amendments are set forth in Exhibit "A," which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

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

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County,  
Georgia, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD  
OF COMMISSIONERS**

Sponsored by:

*Suzette Thorne*

Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)

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5 ATTEST:

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8 Tonya R. Grier  
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11 Tonya R. Grier,  
12 Clerk to the Commission  
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14



15 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
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18 Y. Soo Jo  
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20 Y. Soo Jo, County Attorney  
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# EXHIBIT A

## Sec. 101-42. - Presentation of proclamations.

- (a) All proclamations shall be presented at the first meeting of the board of commissioners which takes place on the first Wednesday of each month. Proclamations will be presented at the recess meeting commencing with the first recess meeting of the board of commissioners in May 1995, beginning promptly with presentations not to exceed 10:30 a.m.
- (b) Proclamations shall be limited to one (1) proclamation per commissioner presented at each regularly scheduled meeting of the board of commissioners, and may not be transferred or carried over to the next meeting to result in two proclamations led by one commissioner.
- (c) Proclamations, whether spread on the minutes or presented at regularly scheduled meetings of the board commissioners, shall be limited to seventy (70) proclamations per commissioner per year.
- (d) Proclamations shall not be presented to an individual or organization more than one (1) time per calendar year.
- (e) Proclamations shall only be issued by commissioners, to residents or organizations, within the commissioners' respective districts, except where residents or organizations outside of a commissioner's district makes a request for a proclamation in writing to the out-of-district commissioner.
- (f) Proclamations shall be signed by two members of the board of commissioners to be presented at a board of commissioners meeting.
- (g) Proclamations may recognize a day, week, or month.
- (h) Commissioners are encouraged to limit the subject matter of proclamations to:
  - i. Milestone birthdays 90 and above;
  - ii. Milestone wedding anniversaries, 50 years and above;
  - iii. Retirements after at least 50 years of service;
  - iv. Local events that enhance public awareness;
  - v. Organizations, individuals, or events which have a direct connection to Fulton County;
  - vi. Significant achievements such as state or national awards, state, or national sports championships, and/or military honors;
  - vii. Significant public service and/or heroic actions; and
  - viii. Significant community events such as annual festivals, parades, grand openings, and/or unveilings.
- (i) Commissioners are discouraged from presenting proclamations, to national organizations that do not have a local contact or connection, to endorse extreme ideological positions, and to advance matters of political controversy.
- (j) Any requests for proclamations made by the board of commissioners, individual commissioners, or any designee thereof, to the department of external affairs, shall afford said department a minimum of three (3) business days to complete the request.
- (k) A request for a proclamation shall be accompanied with all information necessary for the department of external affairs to draft said proclamation.

- (l) There shall be a twenty dollar (\$20.00) administrative fee assessed to the commissioner whose requested proclamation is spread on the minutes of a board of commissioners meeting, with such fee to be transferred from the requesting commissioner's district budget to the budget of the department of external affairs.