

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 NUMBER OF**
10 **PROCLAMATIONS TO ONLY ONE (1) PER COMMISSIONER AT EACH BOARD OF**
11 **COMMISSIONERS MEETING AS ADOPTED AT THE JANUARY 16, 2024 SPECIAL**
12 **CALLED MEETING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

18 **WHEREAS**, Fulton County Code (“FCC”) § 101-42 (adopted by Resolution 95-
19 0623 on May 17, 1995) authorizes Commissioners of the Board of Commissioners
20 (“BOC”) to present proclamations at regularly scheduled BOC Meetings; and

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

23 **WHEREAS**, proclamations are drafted at the request of individual members of the
24 BOC (“Commissioners”); and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that Fulton County Code § 101-42 is hereby
23 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 20th day of March 2024.

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS**

Sponsored by:

Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)

1 ATTEST:

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6 _____
7 Tonya R. Grier,
8 Clerk to the Commission
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11 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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15 _____
16 Y. Soo Jo, County Attorney
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