

1 **A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND**
2 **DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$975,000.00) TO THE ATLANTA VOLUNTEER**
3 **LAWYERS FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED TO SURVIVORS OF**
4 **INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE AND THEIR FAMILIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners is responsible for
7 appropriating County funds to support the effective administration of justice and the
8 operation of the criminal justice system within Fulton County; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the
10 importance of protecting its residents from intimate partner abuse, and guiding residents
11 toward safety, stability, and justice; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit
13 founded in 1979, is the largest provider of pro bono legal services in Fulton County; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation provides consultation and
15 legal assistance to survivors of intimate partner abuse and families impacted by intimate
16 partner abuse; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation operates Safe Families
18 Office inside of the Fulton County Courthouse serving Fulton County residents who are
19 survivors of intimate partner abuse and their families; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the Safe Families Office is staffed by compassionate attorneys, social
21 workers, paralegals, and law students, to make the legal system more accessible and
22 less overwhelming for survivors of intimate partner abuse and their families; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and the Safe Families
24 Office assist over 3,000 survivors each year, providing them with legal consultations,
25 safety planning, and referrals to critical community resources; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and the Safe Families
27 Office provide direct representation for temporary protective orders, which are the
28 strongest legal safeguard for survivors and their families; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and the Safe Families
30 Office spends on average 6.5 hours with each survivor who comes through the door at
31 the Fulton County Courthouse, removing a significant burden on courthouse personnel
32 and contributing extensively to judicial efficiency inside the courtroom; and

33 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and the Safe Families
34 Office have lost Federal funding for the services provided to survivors of intimate partner
35 abuse and their families; and

36 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes that
37 navigating the legal system can be overwhelming for many families and that lack of legal
38 knowledge, financial barriers, and fear of retaliation make it hard to seek safety and
39 justice; and

40 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners wants to help break down
41 barriers to safety and justice and ensure that survivors are not alone as they navigate the
42 justice system; and

43 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners believe that with the right
44 support, survivors can secure safety, reclaim stability, and rebuild their future with
45 confidence; and

46 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners desires to support AVLF
47 using an available funding source that is not derived from tax revenue.

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ATTEST:

Tonya R. Grier, Clerk to the Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Y. Soo Jo, County Attorney