

Proclamation



WHEREAS,

The Sweet Auburn Historic District is a historic African-American neighborhood along and surrounding Auburn Avenue, east of downtown Atlanta, Georgia; the name Sweet Auburn was coined by John Wesley Dobbs, referring to the "richest Negro street in the world," one of the largest concentrations of African-American businesses in the United States at the time; and



WHEREAS,

Charles Johnson founded the festival in 1994 as a way to celebrate the African American achievements as established on Auburn Avenue. The festival offers food, art, and entertainment throughout the day while celebrating Auburn Avenue's past and growth, and is operated by the Sweet Auburn Committee; and



WHEREAS,

Charles became active in Atlanta's annual Sweet Auburn Springfest after moving to the city from his native Philadelphia in 1984 – the event's inaugural year; he began as a vendor, and then joined the Sweet Auburn's business association; and



WHEREAS,

the vision of the Sweet Auburn Festival is to help restore Auburn Avenue to its place of prominence as "The greatest street on the planet", build the world's grandest promenade linking the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic site to the center for civil and human rights, and to transform the Sweet Auburn viaduct into a world class destination, attracting both tourists and residents; and



WHEREAS,

a National Historic Landmark District was designated in 1976, covering 19 acres (7.7 ha) of the neighborhood, significant for its history and development as a segregated area under the state's Jim Crow laws. Sweet Auburn was also added to the National Register of Historic Places the same year;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the Sweet Auburn Springfest, and the contributions of Charles Johnson, for the enduring impact and legacy of the annual celebration, and does hereby proclaim Saturday, May 10, 2025, as "**SWEET AUBURN SPRINGFEST APPRECIATION DAY**" in Fulton County, Georgia.

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner

Attest:

Clerk to the Commission

F U L T O N C O U N T Y