

Proclamation



WHEREAS, The Atlanta Voice Newspaper was founded in 1966 by Ed Clayton and J. Lowell Ware out of the basement of Mr. Ware’s house and quickly became a trusted, authentic, and community-centered source of fact-based journalism; the paper’s motto is “A People Without a Voice Cannot Be Heard”; and



WHEREAS, The Atlanta Voice was established out of the Civil Rights Movement, and was the only paper that regularly featured Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other Civil Rights activists; and



WHEREAS, J. Lowell Ware purchased a building and created his own press for the paper, due to printing restrictions imposed by White-owned printing presses; this press was the first and only Black-owned press in the southeastern United States; and



WHEREAS, The Atlanta Voice now distributes 40,000 copies via 600 metropolitan locations and offers digital content via a website and social media; Mr. Ware’s publishing legacy includes not only *The Atlanta Voice*, but also several other newspapers he founded across the Southeast, including *The Macon Recorder*, *The Augusta Voice*, *The Athens Voice*, *The Tuskegee Voice*, *The Atlanta Inter-Scholastic Journal* and *The Pensacola Voice*; and



WHEREAS, today, the paper is published by Mr. Ware’s daughter, Janis Ware, who took over the paper after her father's death in 1991; Ms. Ware continues to uphold his legacy by steering the paper into the modern era while staying true to her father’s original missions of advocacy, accountability, and service;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioner recognizes The Atlanta Voice Newspaper for its pioneering journalism, and for 60 years of being one of the most respected Black-owned newspapers in the South, and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, October 15, 2025, as **“THE ATLANTA VOICE NEWSPAPER APPRECIATION DAY”** in Fulton County, Georgia

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Commissioner

Clerk to the Commission

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