

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO**
2 **DECLARE A HEALTH CARE EMERGENCY IN FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA DUE TO**
3 **A LACK OF HEALTH CARE AND OTHER MEDICAL PROVIDERS AND THE**
4 **CLOSURE OF THE WELLSTAR ATLANTA MEDICAL CENTER; TO URGE THE**
5 **FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY**
6 **AND TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ADDRESS THE IMPACTS OF THE HEALTH CARE**
7 **DESERT IN SOUTH FULTON COUNTY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

8 **WHEREAS**, Wellstar Health System is closing its Atlanta Medical Center hospital
9 on November 1, 2022, and will close other nearby health care facilities, including primary
10 and surgical care centers, in mid-November; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Medical Center provided 460 hospital beds and served as
12 a level one trauma center, able to treat the most severe traumatic injuries in its emergency
13 room; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in the face of multiple Wellstar facility closures in the last six months,
15 it was communicated that patients could simply be seen at the Emory Midtown Hospital,
16 which is not a viable option since Emory Midtown is further away from south Fulton
17 residents, and does not have the capacity to absorb all of Wellstar's patients; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the departure of the Wellstar facilities will worsen the problem that
19 citizens of south Fulton County already face in not being able to access health care and
20 related services quickly and conveniently from medical providers in close proximity to
21 where they reside; and

22 **WHEREAS**, nearly half a million people within Fulton County who live south of
23 Interstate 20 are now living in a health care desert; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the absence of health care facilities and medical providers in south
25 Fulton disproportionately impacts low-income individuals and people of color; and

WHEREAS, all Fulton County citizens deserve rapid access to life-saving medical care, and should not have to travel prohibitively long distances to seek routine medical care; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Fulton County Code Section 1-117, the Board of Commissioners has exclusive jurisdiction and control over the following matters, to-wit: In directing and controlling all the property of the county, as they may deem expedient, according to law.... and making such rules and regulations for the support of the poor of the county, and for the promotion of health, as are not inconsistent with law...and to exercise such other powers as are granted by law, or are indispensable to their jurisdiction over county matters and county finances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners hereby declares a health care emergency in south Fulton County, Georgia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners urges the Fulton County Board of Health to declare a public health emergency in Fulton County caused by the health care desert in the southern part of the County, and to draft a plan for addressing the shortages of health care facilities and medical providers in impacted communities.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners is in support of the establishment of hospital services and other needed health care facilities to house medical providers in the southern part of Fulton County.

SO PASSED AND ADOPTED, this 2nd day of November, 2022.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SPONSORED BY:

Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Commissioner
District 5

ATTEST:

Tonya R. Grier,
Clerk to the Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Y. Soo Jo County Attorney

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