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ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART I, SUBPART B, CHAPTER 102, ARTICLE V, DIVISION 8, OF THE FULTON COUNTY CODE TO CONTINUE THE NON-DISCRIMINATION IN PURCHASING AND CONTRACT PROGRAM; TO AMEND THE SUNSET PROVISIONS OF THE NON-DISCRIMINATION IN PURCHASING AND CONTRACT PROGRAM: AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the purposes of Chapter 102, Article V. Division 8, of the Ordinances of the Fulton County, Georgia entitled "Non-Discrimination in Purchasing and Contracting" are to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with Fulton County; to reinforce and support outreach efforts to open contracting opportunities to all businesses, regardless of size, race, gender or ethnicity; and to ensure that Fulton County does not become a passive participant in racial, ethnic and gender discrimination; and

WHEREAS, in August 2017, the County commissioned Griffin & Strong, P.C. to conduct a disparity study ("2017 Study") on behalf of the County; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 Study concluded that Fulton County contained underutilization in certain work categories for females and certain minority groups; and

WHEREAS, underutilization means the availability versus the utilization of qualified female owned and certain minority-owned businesses in the Atlanta region ("Underutilization"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance No. 19-0854, adopted by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners on November 20, 2019, Fulton County amended and enacted its current Non-Discrimination in Purchasing and Contracting based on the 2017 Study; and

WHEREAS, Fulton County recognizes the need for periodic review of its Non-Discrimination in Purchasing and Contracting effectiveness in order that appropriate and necessary adjustments may be identified and implemented; and

WHEREAS, Fulton County authorized an updated disparity study of the period between 2018 and 2022 that was also conducted by Griffin & Strong, P.C. and resulted in the 2024 Fulton County Disparity Study Report (the "2024 Disparity Report"), in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the Non-Discrimination in Purchasing and Contracting Program on reducing Underutilization; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Disparity Report concluded that, under the Non-Discrimination in Purchasing and Contracting Program, Fulton County reduced Underutilization of minority-owned businesses, generally, in certain work categories; however, certain minority groups and women continued to experience barriers causing Underutilization Fulton County funded contracts in certain work categories; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Disparity Report adds to, updates, and reinforces the conclusions of the 2017 Disparity Report to improve Fulton County's "Non-Discrimination in Purchasing and Contracting" policy that will contain narrowly tailored equal opportunity measures in County contracting; and

WHEREAS, based on the findings and all information in the 2024 Disparity Report, the totality of the information available to Fulton County, and Fulton County's commitment to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with Fulton County, it is appropriate and necessary for Fulton County and in the best interest of Fulton County's contractors within the marketplace to continue the Non-Discrimination in Purchasing and Contracting Program for an additional five (5) years in order to prevent Fulton County from becoming a passive participant in racial, ethnic, and gender discrimination; to ensure that all businesses have a fair and equitable opportunity to do business with Fulton County; and, to ensure nondiscrimination in the award and the administration Fulton County contracts; and

 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners that Part I, Subpart B, Chapter 102, Article V, Division 8, Non-Discrimination in Purchasing and Contracting is hereby amended to continue the equal opportunity in contracting program known as the "Non-Discrimination in Purchasing and Contracting Policy" and to amend the sunset provision Section 102-441.2 titled, "Sunset Provisions" that the Sunset Provisions shall expire on December 31, 2029, substantially in the form of Attachment 1 attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption, and that the amended Fulton County Purchasing Code, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Attachment 1**, shall apply to all procurements initiated after adoption of this Ordinance and that all ordinances and resolutions and parts thereof conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

 Tonya R. Grier, Clerk to the Commission

| 29 | SO PASSED AND ADO | OPTED , by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County |
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| 30 | Georgia this day of | , 2024. |
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| 32 | | FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF |
| 33 | | COMMISSIONERS |
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| 37 | | Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large) |
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| 39 | ATTEST: | |
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| 1 2 3 4 | APPROVED AS TO FORM: |
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| 5 6 | |
| 7 | Y. Soo Jo, County Attorney |
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