

Proclamation



WHEREAS,

Calvin Crawford Johnson, Jr. was a native of Cincinnati, Ohio and relocated to Atlanta with his family when he was 13 years old; he is a 1975 graduate of Southwest High School and later earned his Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications from Clark Atlanta University; and



WHEREAS,

Calvin worked at MARTA in Atlanta for over 23 years, holding many different roles including Station Manager and Acting Superintendent of Station Services and Rail Transportation; and



WHEREAS,

Calvin was the first person in Georgia to be exonerated by DNA evidence in 1999 (with the help of the Innocence Project) after spending 16 years in prison for a crime he did not commit; in the years after his release, Calvin partnered closely with the Innocence Project and the Georgia Innocence Project and fought passionately alongside them to help and correct wrongful convictions; and



WHEREAS,

Calvin published a memoir titled *Exit to Freedom* and served on the inaugural board of directors for the Innocence Project in New York, and served as Chair of the board of directors for the Georgia Innocence Project; he also testified before legislative committees and met with and won over many government leaders in advocating for reform of the criminal legal system; and



WHEREAS,

Calvin leaves to cherish his memory his beloved daughter, Brianna Jo Ann Johnson, his partner, Ms. Denise Brown, two sisters, Judith and Tara, and a host of family friends;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Calvin Crawford Johnson, Jr. for a life of advocacy and justice for those wrongfully convicted, and does hereby proclaim Thursday, January 26, 2023 as "**CALVIN CRAWFORD JOHNSON, JR. REMEMBRANCE 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