

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
2 ADDRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTHY INDOOR AIR QUALITY BY
3 ENCOURAGING ADEQUATE FILTRATION, HUMIDITY CONTROL, AND
4 VENTILATION IN RESIDENCES WITHIN FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA; URGING
5 THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AND OTHER FULTON COUNTY
6 AGENCIES WITH THE ABILITY TO EDUCATE AND INFLUENCE LANDLORDS,
7 OCCUPANTS, HOMEOWNERS, AND TENANTS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO
8 THE PUBLIC ABOUT IMPROVING INDOOR AIR QUALITY WITH THE GOAL OF
9 REDUCING SUFFERING AND THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF HEALTH CARE
10 TREATMENT ASSOCIATED WITH POOR INDOOR AIR QUALITY; AND FOR
11 OTHER PURPOSES.

12 WHEREAS, Fulton County's Strategic Plan for 2021 – 2025 calls upon the Board of
13 Commissioners to “prevent health disparities by educating residents and connecting them to
14 available resources”; and

15 WHEREAS, this wellness initiative grows from the “All People Are Healthy” vision statement in
16 Fulton County's previous Strategic Plan, with the objective of reducing the rates of disease and
17 unhealthy medical conditions, thereby preventing the need for health care services, which is a more
18 cost-effective solution than treating the symptoms, and is consistent with Fulton County's strategic
19 objective of delivering efficient and effective county services; and

20 WHEREAS, the Fulton County Sustainability & Resilience Plan published in 2019 calls for
21 “supporting an Indoor Air Quality Education Campaign” and “improving occupant health and
22 productivity through better Indoor Environmental Quality”; and

23 WHEREAS, studies indicate that the air indoors, where we spend most of our time, often contains
24 gaseous chemicals, particulates, and microbial growth that have been linked to the onset or
25 exacerbation of many major chronic diseases including Cardio-vascular Diseases, Diabetes,
26 Asthma, and COPD, as well as certain Cancers and Neurological Disorders (*see e.g.*,
27 <https://www.epa.gov/report-environment/indoor-air-quality#health>); and

28 WHEREAS, particulate can be removed with adequate filtration; gaseous chemicals can be
29 diluted with adequate conditioned ventilation, and microbial growth can be mitigated with
30 adequate humidity control, as described at [https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/air-
31 cleaners-and-air-filters-home](https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/air-cleaners-and-air-filters-home), reducing the burden of health-related suffering and the financial
32 burden resulting from indoor air contaminants; and

33 WHEREAS, The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers
34 (“ASHRAE”) recommends the use of Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (“MERV”)-13 filters
35 for COVID-19 safety, and which is at least 85% efficient at capturing particles in 1 μm to 3 μm
36 size range (*see* <https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/filtration-and-disinfection-faq>); and,

37 WHEREAS, The White House has announced a National Initiative “to accelerate the adoption of
38 modern building codes to improve resiliency”, found at [https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-
39 room/statements-releases/2022/06/01/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-launches-initiative-](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/06/01/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-launches-initiative-)

40 [to-modernize-building-codes-improve-climate-resilience-and-reduce-energy-costs/](#), which
41 supports the BOC finding that including appropriate filtration, humidity control, and conditioned
42 ventilation is fundamental for “All People to be Healthy”; and

43 **WHEREAS**, minorities, children living below the poverty line, and other marginalized residents
44 are disproportionately exposed to unhealthy indoor air quality, according to the U.S.
45 Environmental Protection Agency’s studies of indoor air quality and environmental justice; and

46 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Health is authorized to “[t]ake such steps as may be
47 necessary to prevent and suppress disease and conditions deleterious to health...”, pursuant to
48 O.C.G.A. §31-3-4(a)(3).

49 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners
50 hereby declares the importance of filtration, humidity control, and conditioned ventilation to
51 reduce the needless suffering and the preventable financial burdens associated with poor indoor
52 air quality within residences of Fulton County.

53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners hereby
54 encourages the Fulton County Board of Health to provide public service announcements and
55 educational materials for the public that reflects the importance of filtration, humidity control, and
56 conditioned ventilation, particularly for those suffering from Chronic Diseases such as Asthma,
57 COPD, Diabetes, Cardio-vascular Diseases, Allergies, and Neurological Diseases including
58 headaches throughout Fulton County.

59 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners hereby
60 encourages landlords within Fulton County to provide the highest rated filter in the HVAC systems
61 that the system can reasonably accommodate, eliminate sources of water intrusion, provide
62 adequate humidity control, and provide improved filtered and conditioned fresh air ventilation
63 through the HVAC system.

64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners hereby urges
65 and requests that municipalities located within Fulton County consider revising their building
66 codes to require HVAC systems that can utilize a MERV 13 filter, provide adequate humidity
67 control to maintain the humidity near or below fifty percent at room temperature, and fresh air
68 ventilation through the HVAC system.

69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners hereby urges
70 and request that municipalities located within Fulton County consider utilizing code enforcement
71 to require landlords to accommodate Asthma, COPD and other disorders associated with the
72 indoor air quality as required under the American Disability Act.

73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that upon adoption the Clerk to the Commission is hereby
74 directed to provide a copy of this Resolution to the Fulton County Board of Health and to each
75 municipality located within Fulton County Georgia, with the expectation that adoption of this
76 Resolution will increase community awareness and educate citizens on the significance of Indoor
77 Air Quality.

78 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption,
79 and that all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict with this Resolution are hereby repealed
80 to the extent of the Conflict.

81 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners of Fulton County
82 Georgia this 5th day of October, 2022.

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FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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SPONSORED BY:

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Robert L. Pitts, Chairman

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CO-SPONSORED BY:

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Lee Morris, Commissioner (District 3)

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CO-SPONSORED BY:

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Natalie Hall, Commissioner (District 4)

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ATTEST:

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Tonya Grier, Clerk to the Commission

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APPROVED AS TO FORM

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Y. Soo Jo, County Attorney