

Proclamation



WHEREAS, Tayari Jones is a native of Atlanta, Georgia, born and raised in the Cascade Heights neighborhood by her parents, Mack and Barbara Jones, who were both college professors at the Atlanta University Center; and



WHEREAS, Tayari Jones graduated from Benjamin E. Mays High School, and went on to earn her Bachelors degree from Spelman College, a classmate of Commissioner Mo Ivory in the might Class of 1991, and earned a Masters degrees in English and Fine Arts from the University of Iowa and Arizona State University, respectively; and



WHEREAS, Tayari Jones' novels portray African-American experiences in the South, specifically how her subjects lives are impacted by the unjust systems they live in, and the often fractured relationships between parents, married couples, and their children; and



WHEREAS, her first novel, *Leaving Atlanta*, won the 2003 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award for Debut Fiction; her second novel, *The Untelling*, was awarded the Lillian Smith Book Award; her third novel, *Silver Sparrow*, was added to the NEA Big Read Library of Classics, and her fourth novel, *An American Marriage*, won the Women's Prize for Fiction, was a 2018 *Oprah's Book Club* selection, and was ranked by *The New York Times* as one of the best 100 novels of the 21st century; and



WHEREAS, Tayari Jones has received many fellowships, including from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Harvard Radcliffe Institute, and United States Artists; she is also a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award in Fine Arts from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute Bunting Fellowship, and she is a member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers and was inducted into the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame in 2018; and



WHEREAS, Tayari Jones is currently a member of the English faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences at Emory University; she was Andrew Dickson White Professor-at-large at Cornell University before becoming Charles Howard Candler Professor of Creative Writing at Emory University;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognize Tayari Jones for her meteoric rise as an American fiction novelist, congratulates her on the publication of her latest novel, *Kin*, and does hereby proclaim Sunday, February 22, 2026, as "**TAYARI JONES 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