

Proclamation



WHEREAS,

Gilbert Young is a renowned artist, muralist, art conservator, and activist who has spent his lifetime utilizing the canvas as a vehicle for social justice, human connection, and a profound celebration of the Black experience; and



WHEREAS,

Gilbert's artistic mission is "To illustrate Black life as a positive form locked in Holy matrimony with mankind; and



WHEREAS,

Gilbert is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio and relocated to Atlanta, Georgia in 1995 when he became Artistic Director for the International Paint Pals Art Competition in conjunction with the 1996 Olympics; and



WHEREAS,

Gilbert earned international distinction in 2008 as the only artist to paint a portrait of a sitting United States President, titled "*History + Hope=Change*", which is personally signed by President Barack Obama; and



WHEREAS,

Gilbert has been named the State of Georgia *Artist of the Year*, received a Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, and designed the *Salute to Greatness Award* for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Change; and



WHEREAS,

this year, Gilbert celebrates his 85th birthday with the debut of an exclusive three-dimensional sculpture titled *He Ain't Heavy*, modeled after his iconic painting of the same title;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognize Gilbert Young for his many contributions and dedication to the arts, and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, July 15, 2026, as "**GILBERT YOUNG APPRECIATION DAY**" in Fulton County, Georgia.

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Vice Chair

Chairman

Attest:

Clerk to the Commission

F U L T O N C O U N T Y