

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS,* Runaway and homeless youth between the ages of twelve and twenty-four have the least access to essential opportunities and support, and



*WHEREAS,* the prevalence of runaways and homelessness among youth is straggling, with studies estimating that nationally, 4.2 million youth up to 25 years of age experience homelessness every year, of which an overrepresentation, compared to the general youth population, are youth of color, gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender; and



*WHEREAS,* runaway and homeless youth flee conflict, abuse, neglect, and, increasingly, poverty in their homes. They have become disconnected from educational systems and the workforce and do not have the skills or financial resources to live independently. The factors impacting youth homelessness are complex and differ from those affecting other homeless populations; and



*WHEREAS,* runaway and homeless youth who live on the street are victims of physical abuse, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and crime in untold numbers. Each year an estimated 300,000 youth are either victims or at risk of becoming victims, of commercial sexual exploitation. Of these victimized children, approximately 60 percent are homeless, and



*WHEREAS,* many of these youths are on the street because they feel there are no other options open to them, and providing safe, stable, and permanent housing for runaway and homeless youth is a family, community, state, and national priority; and



*WHEREAS,* youth who “age out” of the foster care system at 18 are at an increased risk of homelessness and represent an estimated twenty-five percent of the youth who are currently homeless; and



*WHEREAS,* awareness of the tragedy of youth homelessness, and its causes, must be heightened to ensure more significant support for effective programs aimed at preventing homelessness and helping youth remain off the streets;



*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,* That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners supports efforts to raise awareness of runaway and homeless youth and encourages all to take action and do hereby proclaim the month of November 2023 as “**RUNAWAY & HOMELESS YOUTH PREVENTION MONTH**” in Fulton County, Georgia.

*Fulton County Board of Commissioners*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

Attest:

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Clerk to the Commission

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