

1 **A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND**
2 **DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$975,000.00) TO THE ATLANTA VOLUNTEER**
3 **LAWYERS FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED TO SURVIVORS**
4 **OF INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE AND THEIR FAMILIES; AND FOR OTHER**
5 **PURPOSES.**

6
7 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners is responsible for
8 appropriating County funds to support the effective administration of justice and the
9 operation of the criminal justice system within Fulton County; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the
11 importance of protecting its residents from intimate partner abuse, and guiding residents
12 toward safety, stability, and justice; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit
14 founded in 1979, is the largest provider of pro bono legal services in Fulton County; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation provides consultation and
16 legal assistance to survivors of intimate partner abuse and families impacted by intimate
17 partner abuse; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation operates Safe Families
19 Office inside of the Fulton County Courthouse serving Fulton County residents who are
20 survivors of intimate partner abuse and their families; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the Safe Families Office is staffed by compassionate attorneys,
22 social workers, paralegals, and law students, to make the legal system more accessible
23 and less overwhelming for survivors of intimate partner abuse and their families; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and the Safe Families
25 Office assist over 3,000 survivors each year, providing them with legal consultations,
26 safety planning, and referrals to critical community resources; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and the Safe Families
28 Office provide direct representation for temporary protective orders, which are the
29 strongest legal safeguard for survivors and their families; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and the Safe Families
31 Office spends on average 6.5 hours with each survivor who comes through the door at
32 the Fulton County Courthouse, removing a significant burden on courthouse personnel
33 and contributing extensively to judicial efficiency inside the courtroom; and

34 **WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and the Safe Families
35 Office have lost Federal funding for the services provided to survivors of intimate
36 partner abuse and their families; and

37 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes that
38 navigating the legal system can be overwhelming for many families and that lack of
39 legal knowledge, financial barriers, and fear of retaliation make it hard to seek safety
40 and justice; and

41 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners wants to help break
42 down barriers to safety and justice and ensure that survivors are not alone as they
43 navigate the justice system; and

44 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners believe that with the
45 right support, survivors can secure safety, reclaim stability, and rebuild their future with
46 confidence.

47 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fulton County Board of
48 Commissioners hereby appropriates nine hundred seventy-five thousand dollars and

49 zero cents (\$975,000.00) to the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation to support
50 services provided to survivors of intimate partner abuse and their families; and

51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Manager and the Department of
52 Finance are authorized and directed to allocate and administer the appropriated funds;
53 and

54 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall become effective upon
55 adoption by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners.

56 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County,
57 Georgia this _____ day of _____, 2026.

58 **FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF**
59 **COMMISSIONERS**

60 **SPONSORED BY:**

61
62
63
64
65 _____
66 Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Vice Chair
67 (District 6)

68
69
70
71 **ATTEST:**

72
73
74 _____
75 Tonya R. Grier, Clerk to the Commission

76
77 **APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

78
79 _____
80 Y. Soo Jo, County Attorney

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