

Proclamation



FULTON
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WHEREAS, Grace Fricks is a native of Cleveland, Georgia and founded Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs 24 years ago to help under-resourced business owners grow their businesses, and Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs is now the largest exclusively small business focused Community Development Finance Institution in Georgia, providing capital, coaching, and connections to underserved entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, Under Grace's leadership, Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs has become the largest small business lender in Georgia, providing over \$200 million in loans to more than 2,600 businesses, impacted over 21,000 jobs throughout Georgia, and has had a tremendous impact on lives of entrepreneurs, the small business community, and the economic vitality of Fulton County and its 15 distinct cities; and

WHEREAS, Grace's contribution to the small business community extends to her leadership on numerous boards such as Appalachian Community Capital, Atlanta Emerging Markets Inc., Carter Center Board of Councilors, Village Micro Fund, and the Veteran Loan Fund; and

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, Fulton County Government partnered with Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs to respond to small business needs by deploying \$6.9M in loans, resulting in 135 small businesses supported, 72% of which were Minority or Female Owned businesses, and the initial investment helped support an additional \$39.3M in loans and benefiting 448 small businesses in Fulton County; and

WHEREAS, The Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs Annual Awards takes place Thursday, Sept. 19, at Savanna Hall at Zoo Atlanta, to recognize Georgia small businesses and ACE partners, and celebrate Grace Fricks and her incredible legacy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County encourages all citizens to recognize and celebrate the important contributions of Grace Fricks to Fulton County's most underrepresented and underserved residents and businesses, and does hereby proclaim Thursday, September 19, 2024 as **"GRACE FRICKS APPRECIATION DAY"** in Fulton County, Georgia.

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Chair to the Commission

Vice Chair

Attest:

Clerk to the Commission

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

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