

1 A RESOLUTION TO DIRECT COUNTY MANAGEMENT TO DEVELOP A
2 COMPREHENSIVE “PROJECT CARE” PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIC PLAN THAT
3 ADDRESSES THE HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES IN FULTON COUNTY AS OUTLINED
4 IN THE 2023 “PROJECT CARE” STUDY AND BUILDS ON EFFORTS ALREADY
5 UNDERWAY; TO INCLUDE RELATED COSTS IN THE FY2026 BUDGET AS
6 NEEDED; TO ENSURE THAT THE “PROJECT CARE” PLAN INCLUDES GOALS,
7 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS, AND REGULAR REPORTING TO THE BOARD
8 OF COMMISSIONERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

9 WHEREAS, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners prioritized Health &
10 Human Services in its 2021-2025 Strategic Plan noting a commitment to “decrease health
11 disparity and increase health equity throughout” the county; and

12 WHEREAS, the health disparities and lack of access to healthcare in south Fulton
13 County were further exacerbated by the 2022 closures of two hospitals—Atlanta Medical
14 Center, a Level 1 trauma center in Old Fourth Ward, and Atlanta Medical Center South in
15 East Point; and

16 WHEREAS, on November 2, 2022, in response to the hospital closures, the Board
17 of Commissioners declared a Health Emergency in Fulton County (Resolution 22-0830)
18 and urged the drafting of “a plan for addressing the shortages of health care facilities and
19 medical providers in impacted communities;” and

20 WHEREAS, Fulton County partnered with Morehouse School of Medicine to
21 engage Ernst & Young to conduct a study to address the public health emergency and
22 “identify where improvements can be made that will lead to better health outcomes;” and

23 WHEREAS, the study, called “Project Care,” was presented to the BOC in April
24 2023 and found that the residents of south Fulton County, a “healthcare desert”, must
25 travel long distances for emergency and primary care, are more likely to suffer from
26 chronic disease, and have significantly worse health outcomes than the rest of the county;
27 and

1 **WHEREAS**, the study recommended establishing sufficient sites of care within a
2 reasonable travel distance, incorporating health care initiatives into other County
3 programs and service locations, mobilizing community health workers to bring care to
4 residents, and leveraging technology to increase use of telehealth; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the study also recommended reducing financial roadblocks that deter
6 residents from seeking primary care for common illnesses and chronic disease prevention
7 and management; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the County is making progress on addressing health disparity and has
9 already undertaken a myriad of projects based on the “Project Care” recommendations;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners wishes to continue to build on its efforts
12 to improve public health in comprehensive and strategic ways and to provide the public
13 with regular updates on the health of our community.

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fulton County Board of
15 Commissioners hereby directs County Management to develop a comprehensive “Project
16 Care” Public Health Strategic Plan that includes efforts already underway along with new
17 initiatives designed to have the most impact on improving health outcomes and
18 decreasing health disparities throughout the county with a particular focus on the gaps
19 identified in South Fulton communities.

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any new initiatives should include budget
21 recommendations for inclusion in the FY2026 Proposed Budget and Cost Projections for
22 future budgets as appropriate.

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the “Project Care” plan should include the

1 defining of key performance indicators (KPIs) in accordance with national benchmarks for
2 public health and healthcare access.

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that County Management shall provide “Project
4 Care” reporting to the Board of Commissioners on a quarterly basis.

5 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, County Management shall present the “Project
6 Care” Public Health Strategic Plan and budget for approval in alignment with the annual
7 budget process.

8 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County,
9 Georgia, this 1st day of October 2025.

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14 **FULTON COUNTY**
15 **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

16
17 **Sponsored by:**

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20 _____
21 Dana Barrett, Commissioner
22 (District 3)

23 **ATTEST:**

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26 _____
27 Tonya R. Grier,
28 Clerk to the Commission
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31 **APPROVED AS TO FORM:**
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34 _____
35 Y. Soo Jo, County Attorney