

Proclamation

WHEREAS,

The L.E.A.D. (Launch, Expose, Advise, Direct) Center for Youth is a sports-based youth development organization launched its inaugural Ambassador Program in 2008, providing 18 young men with competitive play opportunities in national showcase along with service opportunities around the City of Atlanta; and



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WHEREAS,

L.E.A.D.'s mission is to empower an at-risk generation to lead and transform their city by using the sport of baseball to teach Black boys how to overcome three curveballs that threaten their success: crime, poverty, and racism through its four pillars - athletics, academics, civic engagement and commerce; and



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WHEREAS,

co-founders C.J. and Kelli Stewart knew that to make a bigger impact in the lives of youth, the organization would have to focus on younger student-athletes, and in 2010, they partnered with the Atlanta Public Schools Office of Athletics and the Atlanta Braves Foundation to create the District's first middle school baseball program, the Character Development League; and



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WHEREAS,

In 2009, L.E.A.D. launched The Legacy League, the country's first fall instructional league focusing on developing the talent of Black youth for college play, and to date, L.E.A.D. graduates have achieved a 100% high school graduation rate, a 91% college enrollment and college scholarship rate, and about 10% of L.E.A.D. graduates have selected military service, entrepreneurship or workforce entry; and



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WHEREAS,

In 2022, L.E.A.D. has served over 5,000 boys and young men through 15 years of service, and is planning a facilities expansion and program expansion to include girls programming, providing Atlanta's most vulnerable youth with resources and guidance to use baseball, and soon tennis, to access post-secondary pathways that position our youth to win at the game of life;



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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes L.E.A.D. Center for Youth for its dedication to empowering the youth of Atlanta and Fulton County, and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, July 6, 2022 as **"L.E.A.D. CENTER FOR YOUTH APPRECIATION DAY"** in Fulton County, Georgia.

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Sponsoring Commissioner

Attest:

Commissioner

Clerk to the Commission

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