

1 A RESOLUTION BY THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO
2 DEDICATE AND NAME COURTROOM 9G IN THE LEWIS R. SLATON COURTHOUSE
3 AS THE "HONORABLE CLARENCE COOPER COURTROOM"; TO AUTHORIZE THE
4 COUNTY MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO EFFECTUATE THE
5 NAMING OF COURTROOM 9G AS PROVIDED; TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR
6 COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO EFFECTUATE
7 THE CHANGE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
8

9 WHEREAS, on December 17, 1997, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners
10 enacted Policy and Procedure # 600-57, for the purpose of naming public facilities within
11 Fulton County; and

12 WHEREAS, on July 1, 2009, by way of Agenda Item # 09-0630, and in accordance
13 with Policy and Procedure # 600-57, the Board of Commissioners established the Public
14 Facility Naming Advisory Board, which is known as the "Naming Commission;" and

15 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Naming Commission is to consider requests and
16 provide recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for naming or renaming public
17 facilities, structures, or other Fulton County resources, but excluding roads; and

18 WHEREAS, the Lewis R. Slaton Courthouse ("Courthouse") is owned and operated
19 by Fulton County and is located at 136 Pryor Street Southwest, Atlanta, GA 30303; and

20 WHEREAS, Courtroom 9G in this Courthouse is an historic courtroom, as it has
21 housed most of the previous Chief Judges of the Superior Court for Fulton County,
22 including the trailblazing Judge Clarence Cooper who co-integrated Emory University
23 School of Law with the Honorable Marvin S. Arrington, Sr., reached many milestones in
24 Fulton County, and went on to serve as a historic figure in federal court; and

25 WHEREAS, the Probate Court will relocate courtrooms and chambers from
26 Courtroom 2B to Courtroom 9G in the Courthouse; and

27 WHEREAS, Judge Clarence Cooper, retired, is a graduate of Clark Atlanta
28 University, Emory University School of Law, Harvard University, and Massachusetts
29 Institute of Technology; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Judge Clarence Cooper has served the United States of America in
2 both the military and justice system, serving in the United States Army from 1968 to 1970,
3 where he received the Bronze Star, a Certificate of Commendation, the National Defense
4 Service Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the
5 Vietnam Campaign Medal; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Judge Clarence Cooper is a trailblazer and has had a long and
7 distinguished career in the United States justice system, working as an attorney with the
8 Atlanta Legal Aid Society and then becoming the first African-American Assistant District
9 Attorney in the State of Georgia in 1968, where he worked for the Fulton County District
10 Attorney's Office in 1968 and from 1970 to 1975; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Judge Clarence Cooper began his service as a judge on the City of
12 Atlanta Municipal Court in 1975, where he was the first African-American appointed to a
13 full-time judgeship; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Judge Clarence Cooper was the first African-American ever elected to
15 a county-wide judgeship on the Fulton County Superior Court, where he served from 1980
16 to 1990; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Judge Clarence Cooper served as a Justice on the Georgia Court of
18 Appeals from 1990 to 1994, and was nominated by President Bill Clinton to become a
19 United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of
20 Georgia on March 9, 1994; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the United States Senate confirmed Judge Cooper for his seat on the
22 United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia on May 9, 1994, where he
23 continues to serve until he took Inactive Senior status in September of 2021; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the Naming Commission convened to discuss the naming of Courtroom
25 9G for the Honorable Clarence Cooper, and voted to recommend to the Board of

Commissioners the naming of Courtroom 9G in the Courthouse as the “Honorable Clarence Cooper Courtroom” to honor Judge Cooper and to recognize his tremendous contributions to the United States judicial system and society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the Naming Commission has selected and is recommending that the Board of Commissioners name Courtroom 9G in the Courthouse as the “Honorable Clarence Cooper Courtroom”.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the recommendation from the Naming Commission and hereby dedicates and names Courtroom 9G in the Lewis R. Slaton Courthouse as the “Honorable Clarence Cooper Courtroom”; as an honor befitting a judge who served Fulton County and its citizens with distinction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Manager is hereby authorized to take all necessary steps to effectuate the naming of Courtroom 9G as provided herein, and that the Chairman and County Manager are hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents to effectuate the naming of the courtroom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Real Estate and Asset Management shall create appropriate signage to be placed in and around Courtroom 9G designating it as the “Honorable Clarence Cooper Courtroom”.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall become effective when adopted, and that all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict with this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SO PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County, Georgia, this 6TH day of October 2021.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Sponsored By:

Marvin S. Arrington, Jr.

Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Commissioner
District 5

ATTEST:

Tonya R. Grier

Tonya R. Grier
Clerk to the Commission



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kaye Woodard Burwell

Kaye Woodard Burwell
Interim County Attorney

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ITEM # 21-0778 RM 10/6/21
REGULAR MEETING