

1 **A RESOLUTION CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE FULTON COUNTY**
2 **REPARATIONS TASK FORCE TO RESEARCH THE FEASIBILITY OF**
3 **SLAVERY REPARATIONS FOR BLACKS WHO LIVE IN FULTON COUNTY,**
4 **GEORGIA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the institution of slavery existed in the United States from its
7 founding in 1776 and ended in 1865 with the end of the American Civil War and
8 the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution,
9 freeing an estimated four million Black/African American people; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the prolonged enslavement of Black/African-American
11 people, including the various forms of continued involuntary solitude after the
12 abolishment of slavery, has had a detrimental effect on Black/African-American
13 people to this day United States; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the remnants of slavery have resulted in Black/African-
15 American people being denied fair, adequate, and safe housing through redlining
16 policies; being grouped into public housing projects; being denied mortgages;
17 being steering to less desirable neighborhoods; gentrification practices; and
18 intentionally being located next to environmentally toxic industries which have
19 adversely impacted their health; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the vestiges of slavery have resulted in Black/African-
21 American people experiencing disproportionately low employment rates, reduced
22 opportunities to fully participate in the local job market, unfair denial of business
23 loans, inadequate health care, food deserts, disproportionate imprisonment, and
24 poor schools and educational opportunities, among other things; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes that
26 like most, if not all, communities in the United States, the Fulton County

1 community and its various local governments have allowed and perpetuated
2 endemic racial disparities through the use of many regulatory and policy-oriented
3 tools; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners desire to take
5 action to begin to address the historical wealth and opportunity gaps that the
6 Black/African-American residents of Fulton County have experienced; and

7 **WHEREAS**, generally defined, reparations for slavery are the
8 compensation in various forms to victims of slavery and/or their descendants;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, reparations are also defined as the making of amends for a
11 wrong one has done, by paying money to or otherwise helping those who have
12 been wronged; and

13 **WHEREAS**, reparations can take numerous forms, including: individual
14 monetary payments, settlements, scholarships, waiving of fees, systemic
15 initiatives to offset injustices, land-based compensation related to independence,
16 apologies and acknowledgements of the injustices, token measures such as
17 naming a building after someone, or the removal of monuments and renaming of
18 streets that honor slave owners and defenders of slavery; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners seeks to explore
20 the feasibility of reparations to Black/African-American residents of Fulton County
21 residents by creating a taskforce to research the feasibility of slavery reparations
22 for Black/African-American who live in Fulton County; and

1 **WHEREAS**, this taskforce would include an examination into how slavery
2 helped both public and private businesses that resulted in lasting disparities in
3 Black/African-American communities; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners believes that it
5 will be beneficial to all citizens of Fulton County to create the Fulton County
6 Reparations Task Force to study the feasibility of reparations for slavery to
7 Black/African-American residents of Fulton County.

8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of
9 Commissioners of Fulton County hereby creates and establishes the Fulton
10 County Reparations Task Force (the “Reparations Task Force”).

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Reparations Task Force shall,
12 among other things, function to analyze the feasibility of slavery reparations for
13 Black/African-American Fulton County residents.

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Reparations Task Force shall
15 serve as an advisory body to the Board of Commissioners to investigate and
16 provide recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding priorities,
17 objectives, and policies which will support the revitalization, preservation, and
18 stabilization of the Black/African-American population in Fulton County in the
19 form of reparations.

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Reparations Task Force shall
21 have the following members: Each Commissioner shall appoint one (1) member.
22 Each member shall be a resident of Fulton County at the time of the
23 appointment. A member shall serve for a two year term and subject to removal

1 by the appointing Commissioner for cause. No member's term shall exceed that
2 of the appointing Commissioner, but shall remain as a voting member until
3 replaced or reappointed by the successive Commissioner.

4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that monetary compensation will not be
5 provided to appointed members or other volunteers for participation on the
6 Reparations Task Force.

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Attorney is hereby
8 authorized to assist the Reparations Task Force with the drafting of its bylaws,
9 consistent with the requirements of Fulton County, to include conflict of interest
10 safeguards.

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Manager or his/her
12 designee will make meeting space and accommodations for the Reparations
13 Task Force as needed, and the Reparations Task Force shall report on the
14 findings and proceedings of its meetings to the Board of Commissioners after the
15 meeting occurs and annually through the Clerk to the Commission.

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Reparations Task Force shall
17 sunset on December 31, 2025, unless continued by action of the Board of
18 Commissioners.

19 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall become effective
20 upon its adoption, and that all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict with
21 this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

22 **SO PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this 14th day of April, 2021.

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FULTON COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

SPONSORED BY:

By: _____
Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Esq.
Commissioner, District 5

By: _____
Natalie Hall
Vice-Chair, District 4

By: _____
Khadijah Abdur-Rahman
District 6

ATTEST:

Tonya R. Grier
Clerk to the Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kaye W. Burwell
Interim County Attorney