

1 **STATE OF GEORGIA**
2 **COUNTY OF FULTON**
3 **CITY OF SOUTH FULTON**

4
5 **A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR RECOMMENDATIONS ON REPARATIONS**
6 **WITHIN THE CITY DUE TO THE HORRID AND PERVASIVE HISTORY OF RACISM**
7 **IN GEORGIA NEGATIVELY IMPACTING CITY RESIDENTS AND FOR OTHER**
8 **LAWFUL PURPOSES**
9

10 **(Sponsored by Councilman Baker)**
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the City of South Fulton ("City") is a municipal corporation duly
13 organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia;
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the duly elected governing authority of the City is the Mayor and
16 Council thereof ("City Council");

17 **WHEREAS**, the State of Georgia has a painful history of horrid abuses and
18 atrocities committed against African descendants of slavery;

19 **WHEREAS**, in 1861, according to U.S. Census records, approximately 462,198
20 African descendants were enslaved within the State of Georgia;

21 **WHEREAS**, on January 19, 1861, Georgia voted to secede from the Union and
22 join the Confederate States of America;

23 **WHEREAS**, the Civil War ensued in which the Confederate States of America was
24 defeated by the Union, with the April 16, 1865 Battle of Columbus being officially
25 recognized by the State of Georgia as the "last battle" of the Civil War;

26 **WHEREAS**, shortly thereafter, on December 6th, 1865, the 13th Amendment was
27 enacted which abolished slavery in the United States;

28 **WHEREAS**, the State of Georgia did not re-enter the Union until July 15, 1870, as
29 the last of the former Confederate states to be re-admitted;

30 **WHEREAS**, during the 1890s, the State of Georgia passed a wide variety of Jim
31 Crow laws that mandated racial segregation, separation in public facilities and a system
32 of discrimination that saturated nearly all aspects of the lives of African descendants of
33 slavery in Georgia;

34 **WHEREAS**, African descendants of slavery experienced disproportionate
35 unemployment rates and reduced opportunities to fully participate in the Georgia job
36 market;

37 **WHEREAS**, African descendants of slavery were segregated from mainstream
38 education and through discriminatory educational policies in Georgia;

39 **WHEREAS**, African descendants of slavery received inadequate access to proper
40 health care as exemplified by disproportionate morbidities and mortality rates and
41 discriminatory medical practices such as involuntary sterilizations, denial of adequate
42 testing, denial of preventative and curative procedures;

43 **WHEREAS**, African descendants of slavery have been unjustly targeted by law
44 enforcement and criminal justice procedures, incarcerated at disproportionate rates;

45 **WHEREAS**, Government sponsored racism only began to erode in the State of
46 Georgia in the middle of the twentieth century, when a series of federally mandated civil
47 rights reforms, which included the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, Civil Rights
48 Act of 1964 and 1965 Voting Rights Act;

49 **WHEREAS**, understanding and acknowledging the history of racism, intolerance
50 and prejudice in the State of Georgia is critical in ensuring that history doesn't repeat
51 itself;

52 **WHEREAS**, systemic racism was created over centuries and will take time to
53 dismantle;

54 **WHEREAS**, the City is committed to eradicating government sponsored racism,
55 social bias and prejudice within the State of Georgia;

56 **WHEREAS**, the City Council desires through this Resolution to acknowledge the
57 history of racism, intolerance and prejudice in the State of Georgia affirm its commitment
58 to eradicating the negative and harmful effects within the City of Georgia's pervasive
59 history of racism, intolerance and discrimination; and

60 **WHEREAS**, this Resolution is in the best interests of the health and general
61 welfare of the City and State of Georgia.

62 **THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GEORGIA, HEREBY**
63 **RESOLVES** as follows:

64 **Section 1.**
65

- 66
- 67 **a. Commitment.** The City hereby affirms its commitment to eradicating the effects
68 of Georgia's systemically racist past practices negatively impacting the City.
69
- 70 **b. Call on State and Federal Government.** The City hereby calls on the State of
71 Georgia and the federal government to address and access systemically racist
72 past practices against African descendants of slavery within the state and nation,

73 and implement policymaking and funding for reparations at the state and national
74 levels.
75

76 **c. Call on Other Entities.** The City further calls on other organizations, businesses
77 and governments throughout the nation to address and access the negative impact
78 of racism within their own structures and programs, and resolve to address the
79 lingering impacts of the nation's dark history of systemic racism.
80

81 **d. Recommendations on Reparations.** The City hereby directs the City Manager
82 within the next year to assess and report back on actions within the City which
83 address the areas below, as well as, where practical and underserved, short,
84 medium and long-term recommendations for reparations through local and/or
85 interjurisdictional policies and programs which assist with:
86

- 87 1. Boosting economic mobility and opportunity within the City;
- 88
- 89 2. Repairing the damage caused by public and private systemic racism in
90 Georgia;
- 91
- 92 3. Increasing African descendants of slavery's homeownership and access to
93 other affordable housing;
- 94
- 95 4. Increasing African descendants of slavery's business ownership and career
96 opportunities and strategies to grow equity and generational wealth;
- 97
- 98 5. Closing any unjust gaps in health care, education and employment;
- 99
- 100 6. Enhancing neighborhood safety and fairness within criminal justice;
- 101
- 102 7. Improving healthy food availability and access;
- 103
- 104 8. Enhancing resident well-being, effective use of natural community spaces and
105 environmental justice;
- 106
- 107 9. Supporting youths by providing more comprehensive, holistic services and
108 programming to prevent gaps in the City's social safety net;
- 109
- 110 10. Making the City a model city for racial and social justice; and
- 111
- 112 11. Expanding community and collaborative outreach consistent with the goals of
113 this Resolution, such as opportunities for joining N'COBRA and other
114 organizations.
115

e. **Strategic Alliance.** The City Manager is further hereby instructed to cause for the City to join the **Government Alliance for Racial Equity**, a national network of governments working together to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all.

Section 2. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that: (a) All sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Resolution are or were, upon their enactment, believed by the City Council to be fully valid, enforceable and constitutional.

(b) To the greatest extent allowed by law, each and every section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution is severable from every other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution. No section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution is mutually dependent upon any other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution.

(c) In the event that any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Resolution shall, for any reason whatsoever, be declared invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, it is the express intent of the City Council that such invalidity, unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall, to the greatest extent allowed by law, not render invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or sections of the Resolution.

Section 3. The City Attorney and City Clerk are authorized to make non-substantive editing and renumbering revisions to this Resolution for proofing, codification, and supplementation purposes. The final version of all resolutions shall be filed with the City Clerk.

Section 4. The effective date of this Resolution shall be the date of adoption, unless provided otherwise by the City Charter or state and/or federal law.

The foregoing RESOLUTION No. 2020-_____, adopted on _____
was offered by Councilmember _____, who moved its approval. The motion

was seconded by Councilmember _____, and being put to a vote, the result was as follows:

	AYE	NAY
William "Bill" Edwards, Mayor	_____	_____
Carmalitha Gumbs, Mayor Pro Tem	_____	_____
Catherine Foster Rowell	_____	_____
Helen Zenobia Willis	_____	_____
Gertrude Naeema Gilyard	_____	_____
Corey Reeves	_____	_____
khalid kamau	_____	_____
Mark Baker	_____	_____

THIS RESOLUTION adopted this _____ day of _____ 2020. **CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GEORGIA**

WILLIAM "BILL" EDWARDS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CORY E. ADAMS, INTERIM CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

EMILIA C. WALKER, CITY ATTORNEY