

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COMMISSION OF THE UNIFIED  
GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA TO PURSUE  
HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF THOMAS N. LAY PARK**

WHEREAS, Thomas N. Lay Park originally opened in June 1975 as the Central Athens Community Center. Funded by the Model Cities Program and built to meet the recreational and educational needs of the community, the center quickly became a hub for connection, learning, and growth. Under the longtime leadership of Willie Hull, the facility grew to offer impactful programs such as summer camp, arts and crafts, youth sports, holiday events, and the beloved Family and Friends Day. In 1990, the facility was renamed in honor of Thomas N. Lay, a visionary leader who championed youth development and community recreation;

WHEREAS, there is cause to believe that the area now known as Thomas N. Lay Park served as an area of recreation and community for the residents of Athens, sometimes at the exclusion of other residents, for decades prior to its official dedication in 1975;

WHEREAS, in this period of transition for the area surrounding Thomas N. Lay Park and downtown Athens more generally, it is incumbent that the history of the Thomas N. Lay Park and the surrounding area is discovered and recorded in order to acknowledge and preserve its significance in the history of Athens, and to integrate this history into future development;

WHEREAS, Commissioner Ovita Thornton has initiated an initial inquiry into this history of Thomas N. Lay Park and has requested that the Mayor and Commission of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia join her to expand this effort;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Commission of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia:

Section 1. The Mayor and Commission direct that Unified Government Staff (“Staff”) initiate an application for the consideration of Thomas N. Lay Park for Local Historic Designation under the Athens-Clarke County Historic Preservation Ordinance Section 8-5.

Section 2. The Mayor and Commission does hereby request that an allocation of up to \$10,000.00 be allocated to discovering and documenting the history of Thomas N. Lay Park for the purpose of the preparation of the designation report to accompany the application for designation and for general purposes. Such allocation shall be directed to the Manager’s Office and shall be used in its discretion to document the history of Thomas N. Lay Park and to prepare the landmark designation application to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Section 3. In the event that scrivener’s errors shall be discovered in this Resolution after the adoption hereof, the Commission hereby authorizes and directs that each such scrivener’s error shall be corrected in all multiple counterparts of this Resolution.

Section 4. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its approval by the Mayor or upon its adoption into law without such approval.

Section 5. That the Manager or his lawful designees are hereby authorized to perform all acts necessary to implement this resolution.

SO RESOLVED by the Mayor and Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_\_\_\_\_.

By:

---

Kelly Girtz, Mayor

Attest:

(SEAL)

---

Christine Howard, Clerk of Commission