

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA, IN RECOGNITION THAT BLACK LIVES MATTER

WHEREAS, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, acknowledges and recognizes the inhuman treatment, including overt, institutional and unconscious racism and even the murder of many Black people, and the long-term trauma many Black people have experienced as a result of this treatment, including but not limited to de jure slavery from 1619-1865, lynching during the Reconstruction Era and beyond, Jim Crow Segregation, the 1921 Destruction of Black Wall Street, the 1923 Destruction of Rosewood, racially motivated redlining, so-called separate but equal educational systems, a racialized system of mass incarceration, and many similar events, and

WHEREAS, the Unified Government acknowledges and recognizes the trials, tribulations, sacrifices, and accomplishments of African Americans in general, and Athenian African Americans specifically, including events such as the integration of the University of Georgia; the hiring of Donald Moon (who was killed in 1963) and Rev. Archibald Killan as the first Black Police officers in Athens (who, even then, were only allowed to arrest Black people); the creation of the NAACP Black Youth Council, which engaged in sit-ins and protests at local diners between 1961 and 1963; the integration of public schools in the 1960's and early 70's; the founding of Bethel Homes by Rev. Maddox of the Greater Bethel AME Church in the 1960's; the Model Cities programs that offered new opportunities for African Americans and community development in Athens in the 1960's; the 1982 founding of WXAG as the first Black Radio Station; the creation of the first community-funded summer program in 1991 in response to parents organizing and questioning the high number of Black students retained in elementary school; the founding of Grand Slam in 1990 to provide enrichment and jobs for youth; the hiring in 1997 of Chief Joseph Lumpkin as Athens' first African American Police Chief after the death of Edward Wright in 1996; and the fact that gentrification was evident in East Athens in the late 90's, and

WHEREAS, the Unified Government supports a process to recognize those individuals (both well-known and less well known) from all paths of life, who lived and dedicated their lives to the betterment of African American Lives in Athens, and

WHEREAS, the Unified Government can never heal the trauma of Black people nor fully erase the past but can empathize and commit to work on building real equity, and

WHEREAS, the Athens-Clarke County Commission by a majority vote has already allocated \$6,000,000 to address inequities and inequality in Athens by focusing on helping to assist and develop minority owned businesses, establishing an ACC Minority Purchasing Officer, developing a stronger minority employee recruitment program for county positions, establishing an Urban Renewal Impact Committee, forming an Athens Equity Citizen Committee, building stronger youth opportunities, and improving our Justice System and Public Safety strategies with assistance from Athens-Clarke County citizens, and

WHEREAS, the Athens-Clarke County Commission approved the 2020 SPLOST Project List, which, having now been approved by Athens-Clarke County voters, has dedicated

\$45,000,000 towards more affordable housing for our community, \$6,500,000 to help improve internet availability, especially in low-income and rural areas such as Lexington Road and North Athens, as well as \$14,500,000 for an Eastside Library, all of which will assist in addressing inequality in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES, as follows:

The Commission commits to an extended and intense effort to address systemic racism and demonstrate the importance of Black lives in our community, including but not limited to the following:

1. The Athens-Clarke County FY21 and FY20 Prosperity Packages will explore ways to continue to utilize funds to hire grant writers, further support of the Neighborhood Leaders Program, and explore the Citizen's Participatory Budget process.
2. The Unified Government will explore ways to work with Athens Business Alliance to help address the needs of small businesses and Co-ops and to help create green job opportunities with 100% Renewable Energy.
3. The Unified Government will explore ways to work with and support programs and agencies working with the elderly, including Above and Beyond.
4. The Unified Government will explore ways to work to address racial disparities in access to medical treatment by exploring alternative healthcare service options and working with our Nurses Clinic, Mercy Clinic, the Neighborhood Health Center, the Department of Public Health, the Innovative HealthCare Institute, and other certified programs and healthcare agencies, particularly in light of the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic.
5. The Unified Government will explore ways to work to address the environmental health concerns in the Pittard Road and Dunlap Road Black communities.
6. The Unified Government will review annually possible options to support a cost of living increase for retirees.
7. The Unified Government will explore ways to work with diverse banking and financial institutions for the best and most equitable services, including options related to the Federal Community Reinvestment Act.
8. The Unified Government will explore ways to recognize and support the Edward Wright Festival, the MLK Jr. Day Parade, Hot Corner, and the Kwanzaa Celebration.

9. The Unified Government will explore ways to work with community leaders to establish Juneteenth as a local annual holiday and celebration.
10. The Unified Government will explore ways to work with all communities and faith-based groups who traditionally have not been involved with the government's community initiatives, regardless of race, income, religion, occupation, gender, etc., to ensure equity and sustainable change and to forever acknowledge Black Lives Matter.

SO RESOLVED, this 9 day of July, 2020.

APPROVED: Kelly Girtz

Kelly Girtz, Mayor

ATTEST: G. J. Spratlin

Gloria J. Spratlin, Clerk of Commission