

1 **RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A FULTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL**
2 **JUSTICE WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDED POLICIES AND**
3 **PROJECTS TO ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN FULTON COUNTY**
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6 **WHEREAS**, objective data developed over the last several decades
7 demonstrates that environmentally adverse land uses -- such as landfills, hazardous
8 waste sites and heavy industrial uses – are disproportionately located in areas whose
9 residents are predominantly minority and low-income; and

10 **WHEREAS**, as an example, a 1983 study by the U.S. General Accounting Office
11 found that, in the Southeast, African-Americans comprised the majority of the population
12 in three-fourths of the communities where hazardous waste landfills were located; and

13 **WHEREAS**, a March 2012 report by GreenLaw titled “The Patterns of Pollution:
14 A Report on Demographics and Pollution in Metro Atlanta” (the “GreenLaw Report”)
15 identified the worst “environmental justice hotspot” in the region as the Fulton Industrial
16 Boulevard area, with approximately 55 pollution points in an area where nearly ninety
17 percent (90%) of residents are minorities, and the fourth-worst hotspot is located in
18 Central Fulton County along the Beltline in Northwest Atlanta; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Fulton County has sought to promote environmental justice since at
20 least 1996, with the Board of Commissioners’ adoption of a policy in the Fulton County
21 Comprehensive Plan to ensure that “the placement of both private and public uses
22 which may be considered environmentally adverse are not concentrated in low-income
23 communities or areas where a high percentage of the population belongs to racial and
24 ethnic minorities”; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2010, Fulton County created an Environmental Justice Program
2 to increase consideration of environmental and health impacts in the planning and
3 implementation of County projects; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the GreenLaw Report states that “Fulton County is an anomaly in
5 the region in this regard as most local governments . . . currently have no enforceable
6 policy or law regarding environmental justice”; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Manager and the Department of Health and
8 Human Services have developed recommendations designed to further improve Fulton
9 County government’s efforts to enhance environmental justice; and

10 **WHEREAS**, among those recommendations is the establishment of an internal
11 working group to develop environmental-justice initiatives, policies, and funding
12 resources;

13 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of
14 Fulton County hereby establishes the Fulton County Environmental Justice Working
15 Group and directs the County Manager to include in such Working Group key personnel
16 from those Fulton County departments and agencies whose activities relate to or impact
17 environmental justice matters.

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Fulton County Environmental Justice
19 Working Group shall, among other things, assist with research collection relating to
20 environmental justice; recommend new environmental justice policies and initiatives to
21 the Board of Commissioners; inform Fulton County departments of environmental
22 justice policies and operational changes; and seek grants as well as other funds and
23 resources to support environmental justice initiatives.

