

Office of the Fulton County Clerk of Superior and Magistrate Courts Honorable Cathelene "Tina" Robinson

> Atlanta Judicial Circuit Lewis R. Slaton Courthouse 136 Pryor Street, S.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30303 Phone: (404) 613-5314 Fax: (404) 332-0391 http://www.fultonclerk.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 13, 2020 **CONTACT: Nicholas F. Cotten** Chief Deputy Clerk, Public & Media Affairs (404) 613 - 4217- Office (404) 964 - 4426 - Mobile <u>nicholas.cotten@fultoncountyga.gov</u>

# **MEDIA ALERT**

## CLERK OF COURT TO SUSPEND ANNEX SERVICES AND BOARD OF EQUALIZATION HEARINGS DUE TO COVID-19

**FULTON –** Fulton County Clerk of Superior and Magistrate Courts, Cathelene "Tina" Robinson (Atlanta Judicial Circuit), announces that due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Clerk's office services at the North and South Annexes and Board of Equalization hearings will be suspended for two weeks.

Effectively immediately, this decision to close the north and south service centers (Clerk's offices) and suspend BOE hearings comes by way of a collective effort to minimize the exposure of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) while keeping all staff and internal/external customers safe.

Earlier today, the Fulton County Judiciary (Atlanta Judicial Circuit) issued an order declaring a judicial emergency - suspending jury trials and the reporting of jurors /grand jurors for thirty (30) days. In addition, Fulton County Government issued a notice encouraging all departments to modify services based on an "Essential" or "Non-Essential" classification and if staff are able to "telework, need to report to their work site or be on administrative leave."

From that notice, the office of the Fulton County Board of Assessors moved forward with the cancellation of service, prompting Robinson to cancel hearings related to the Board of Equalization. Robinson states, "Fulton County Government operations, like the rest of the country, has been struck by this unanticipated pandemic and we are collectively working to ensure that we protect our staff and the people we serve. While we feel that it is in the best interests of all parties to close our remote offices and suspend BOE hearings, we will continue to provide services at our downtown location for the foreseeable future."

In the wake of these modifications, The Office of the Clerk of Superior and Magistrate Court's Board of Equalization Division will contact all parties who will be impacted by the suspension of the hearings. Additionally, the office encourages customers to report to the Lewis Slaton Courthouse to obtain any services that they would typically receive at either of the Annexes. It is also highly recommended that customers remain updated by visiting the Fulton County Clerk's Office website, <u>www.fultonclerk.org</u> and the Fulton County Government website, <u>www.fultoncountyga.gov</u>.

We ask that constituents remain patient and flexible as we work to provide a safe and healthy environment while continuing to deliver effective and efficient service.

#### Closed until March 30, 2020

North Service Center 7741 Roswell Road Atlanta, GA 30350 (404) 613-5755

#### **Closed until March 30, 2020**

South Service Center 5600 Stonewall Tell Road College Park, GA 30349 (404) 612-4117

### **Open during normal business hours**

Downtown Location Lewis R. Slaton Courthouse 136 Pryor Street, S.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30303 Phone: (404) 613-5314 Office Hours: 8:30AM – 5:00PM Monday- Friday

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