

**Resolution of the DeKalb County Governing Authority Regarding
the Charter Review Commission’s Report and Recommended
Changes to the Organizational Act**

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Commission was established by an executive order issued by former DeKalb County Chief Executive Officer Michael Thurmond on March 18, 2021 to comprehensively review DeKalb County’s Organizational Act; and,

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Commission, comprised of 15 volunteers, diligently reviewed the existing Organizational Act of DeKalb County over 18 months and concluded its work in December 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the recommendations provided by the Charter Review Commission offer valuable citizen insights and suggested improvements to DeKalb’s governance structure to bring the Organizational Act up to date and in compliance with state law; and,

WHEREAS, it is imperative to adapt to changing circumstances and ensure that DeKalb’s Organizational Act reflects the evolving needs, concerns, and aspirations of the community; and,

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Commission hosted 22 meetings and 6 public hearings which all included public comment; and,

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Commission held its last meeting on December 14, 2024, and finished its work on that date. The Charter Review Commission’s final report (Attachment A) was compiled by the Carl Vinson Institute and was delivered to DeKalb County in January, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, members of the Charter Review Commission presented their work to the Board of Commissioners on Tuesday March 5, 2024 at a Committee of the Whole meeting; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners conducted its own review of the Charter Review Commission’s work, Report, and recommended changes to the Organizational Act through a series of public discussions during meetings of its Operations Committee in 2024, including hearing from the current DeKalb County Chief Executive Office (“CEO”) Lorraine Cochran-Johnson as to the proposed changes; and

WHEREAS, CEO Cochran-Johnson has provided initial feedback to the Board of Commissioners regarding the Charter Review Commission’s work, Report, and recommended changes to the Organizational Act; and,

WHEREAS, after a period of review and discussion the Board of Commissioners has identified certain portions of the Charter Review Commission’s work, Report and recommended changes that they would like to see enacted, with those changes more specifically identified in Attachment B; and,

WHEREAS, many of the changes recommended in the Charter Review Commission’s final report and requested for enactment through this document can only be implemented through

action at the State level.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT REOLVED THAT the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County do hereby:

1. Commend the Charter Review Commission members for their dedication, expertise, and invaluable contributions to the enhancement of DeKalb County's governance structure;
2. Encourage the DeKalb Delegations to both the Georgia House and Georgia Senate to review and enact the those changes to the Organizational Act contained in the Charter Review Commission Report as identified in Attachment B during the upcoming 2026 Legislative Session, with any necessary voter referendum to be scheduled for November 2026;
3. Make available a copy of this resolution, including Attachments A and B, to the public through official channels.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, 2025.

MICHELLE LONG SPEARS

Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer, this ____ day of _____, 2025

LORRAINE COCHRAN-JOHNSON

Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD

County Clerk
Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer

WILLIAM J. LINKOUS, III

County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia