

RESOLUTION**A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RELATING TO THE CREATION OF A CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF DEKALB COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority of DeKalb County desires a comprehensive review of the Organizational Act of DeKalb County, Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, the Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Commissioners support the recommendations of the Operations Task Force of 2015 to establish a Charter Review Commission comprised of a cross section of citizens from DeKalb County; and,

WHEREAS, the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County signed an Executive Order creating a Charter Review Commission for the County on March 25, 2019; and,

WHEREAS, the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County signed an additional Executive Order relating to the creation of a Charter Review Commission for the County on March 18, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, the work of the Charter Review Commission should include, but not be limited to, a recommendation for the appropriate form of government of DeKalb County that will improve the delivery of services to citizens throughout the County; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that if the current form of the Charter Review Commission, as ordered by the Chief Executive Officer's referenced Executive Orders, does not meet by March 1, 2022, that the Georgia General Assembly create and authorize a Charter Review Commission; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governing Authority of DeKalb County hereby requests that: The Georgia General Assembly create and authorize a Charter Review Commission (the "Commission"). The Commission shall be composed of 15 citizens from DeKalb County, Georgia. Two (2) of the members shall be appointed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who will serve as co-chairs of the Commission. One (1) member shall be appointed by each member of the Board of Commissioners; one (1) member shall be appointed by the DeKalb Senate Delegation; one (1) member shall be appointed by the DeKalb House Delegation; one (1) member shall be nominated by the DeKalb Board of Education; one (1) member shall be nominated by the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce; one (1) member shall be nominated by the Georgia Municipal Association; and one (1) member shall be nominated by the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, all to be approved by official action of the Board of Commissioners; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appointee's names shall be submitted to the Office of the CEO and to the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners no later than April 1, 2022; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event any member of the Commission fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Commission, the member's position on the Commission shall become vacant. After written notice, the entity/official that originally appointed the member

shall fill the vacancy in the same manner as the original appointment. If the appointing/nominating entity/official fails to fill the vacancy within ten (10) business days from written notice, the CEO shall fill the vacancy; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members shall serve without compensation; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission shall convene for a period up to 18 months, and shall assemble for its first meeting no later than April 30, 2022; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission shall have the authority to adopt bylaws, rules or regulations governing its operations, establish its schedule and it may organize itself into such committees and sub-committees as it deems necessary and appropriate; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission shall work with the County's Executive Assistant to gather any and all county related information necessary to advance its work; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission must conduct a mutually agreed upon number of public hearings throughout the County, to include but not be limited to five (5) commission districts during its study period, and deliver mutually agreed upon periodic written and oral updates to the Governing Authority and Delegation; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all meetings held by the Commission shall be open to the public and meeting notices shall be widely distributed through local publications, the internet and electronic mail. Proceedings of the Commission shall be taped and available for on-demand viewing on the County's website. The County shall create a specific website for the work of the Commission where presentations, background materials, minutes of the meetings and other documents can be accessed by the public. An opportunity for public comments will be allowed at each meeting; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission shall submit its final written recommendation(s) to include the appropriate form of government of DeKalb County and/ or any suggested changes to the Organizational Act of DeKalb County no later than October 30, 2023 to the CEO and Board of Commissioners; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County, Georgia has appropriated \$150,000 to fund the work of the Commission. Any additional funding must be approved by the Board of Commissioners; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that consultants employed to work for the Commission shall report directly to the Commission and be given work direction by the Commission; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of the final report shall also be presented to each member of the General Assembly from DeKalb County, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House and chairpersons of the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations committee and the House Governmental Affairs committee; the DeKalb CEO and the DeKalb Board of Commissioners; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any changes to the governance structure of DeKalb County should be advanced through local act of the General Assembly (i.e., Local Legislation) sponsored by elected officials representing a portion of DeKalb County.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ___ day of _____, 2021.

STEPHEN R. BRADSHAW
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer, this ___ day of _____, 2021.

MICHAEL THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BARBARA SANDERS
Clerk of Chief Executive Officer and
County Commission
DeKalb County, Georgia

VIVIANE ERNSTES
County Attorney