



## City of South Fulton, GA Office of the Mayor

The biblical *Parable of the Tares* tells of a farmer who experienced hardship at the beginning of a harvest season. When his grain sprouted and began to produce a crop, weeds also appeared. His laborers asked him, “Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?”

The farmer said to them, “[An enemy has done this.](#)” (Matthew 13:24-30)

Black History Month is a time to remember the struggles and celebrate the successes of Africans in America. Yet as Black History Month begins here in South Fulton — the Blackest City in America — our all-Black City Council has been lured into conflict with the country’s first [Movement for Black Lives](#) organizer elected Mayor.

An enemy has done this.

As a Councilman, when the COVID-19 pandemic began, I pushed for our city to commit to [continue paying every one of our city employees and contractors](#). Unlike many other local governments, no South Fulton employee — from Code Enforcement to Public Works — was ever furloughed and continued to serve our citizens throughout the pandemic. And for that, they should all be rewarded.

As Mayor, I will not allow our city to be hoodwinked into a Hobson’s choice between safety and equity. And I will not allow the media or a Governor who signs away our voting rights under portraits of plantations to coax Black electeds into a Mandingo fight.

There is no “battle” between me and our Police Chief. **South Fulton Police officers are amongst the finest in the world and I fully support retention and hiring bonuses for them.** I also support those bonuses and other incentives for each one of our city employees. My veto last month was not an attempt to “defund the police,” but to ensure the city has a simultaneous discussion about incentives for all employees.

Our February meeting agendas will include bonuses for police and all other employees; as well as incentives like Summer Fridays and redesigned workspaces to attract millennial professionals to our city. This Black History Month I am also introducing a Resolution to make South Fulton the first city in America to recognize [Kwanzaa](#) as an official holiday, and other initiatives that honor our ancestors and celebrate our heritage.

I look forward to engaging in uplifting conversations with all of you at our **virtual Work Session Tuesday, February 8 at 4:00 p.m.** and our **first in-person Council Meeting in two years on Tuesday, February 22 at 4:00 p.m. at the Southwest Arts Center — 915 New Hope Road, South Fulton, Georgia, 30331.**

*Happy* Black History Month. South Fulton Forever.