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7 **A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CITY'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE TO RECOGNIZE**
8 **ELECTION DAY AS AN ANNUAL, OFFICIAL CITY HOLIDAY AND FOR OTHER**
9 **LAWFUL PURPOSES**

10 **(Sponsored by Councilperson khalid)**

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12 **WHEREAS**, the City of South Fulton ("City") is a municipal corporation duly
13 organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia;

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15 **WHEREAS**, the duly elected governing authority of the City is the Mayor and
16 Council thereof ("City Council");

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18 **WHEREAS**, the City seeks to increase voter participation by fostering a "culture
19 of voting;"

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21 **WHEREAS**, the City wishes to promote opportunities for resident voters to
22 engage in the democratic process and compensate staff for participation in the Saturday
23 Electoral College event;

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25 **WHEREAS**, a 2014 Pew Research Study found that non-voters are typically
26 younger voters, more racially diverse, less educated and more financially strapped, and
27 2010 United States Census Data show City residents reflect these demographics;

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29 **WHEREAS**, Election Day is already a holiday in Puerto Rico in presidential
30 election years, and throughout the late 20th century, turnout for Puerto Rico's
31 quadrennial elections was 50 percent higher than it was for presidential contests in the
32 United States;

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34 **WHEREAS**, voter turnout in the United States is among the lowest in the world,
35 and voter turnout in Georgia is among the lowest in the United States;

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37 **WHEREAS**, the City holds elections every November, for state and federal
38 offices in even-numbered years, and City Council in odd-numbered years; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, the City desires to safeguard and promote the public health, safety,
41 and general welfare of all citizens through the adoption of this Resolution.

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43 **THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GEORGIA, HEREBY**
44 **RESOLVES** as follows:
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Section 1.

1. **Observation of Holiday.** The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November is hereby declared "Election Day" in the City and shall be observed annually as an official paid holiday. City employees who are mission critical to Election Day will be offered flex time for the hours they work on Election Day. **Excluding mission critical and emergency matters, the City of South Fulton shall not hold any meetings on any Primary, General, Runoff or Special Election Day observed by the City, Fulton County or the State of Georgia in which citizens of South Fulton are eligible to vote.**

Public

2. **Local, State and Federal Encouragement.** The City Council hereby encourages:

- a. Business owners in the City to give their employees sufficient time on Election Day to research election issues and participate in voting and volunteering;
- b. Georgia municipal, county and school board leaders to enact Election Day resolutions for their employees and students;
- c. State and Federal Leaders to adopt resolutions making Election Day an official holiday;
- d. Voters to voice their concern for low voter turnout and become actively involved in the promotion and/or facilitation of Election Day voting.

Section 2. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that:

(a) All sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Resolution are, or were, upon their enactment, believed by the City Council to be fully valid, enforceable and constitutional.

(b) To the greatest extent allowed by law, each and every section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution is severable from every other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution. No section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution is mutually dependent upon any other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution.

(c) In the event that any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Resolution shall, for any reason whatsoever, be declared invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, it is the express intent of the City Council that such invalidity, unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall, to the greatest extent allowed by law, not

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89 render invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable any of the remaining
90 phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or sections of the Resolution.

91 **Section 3.** All Resolutions and parts of Resolutions in conflict herewith are
92 hereby expressly repealed.

93 **Section 4.** The effective date of this Resolution shall be the date of adoption
94 unless provided otherwise by the City Charter or state and/or federal law.

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96 **Section 5. Instruction to City Clerk:** The City Clerk is hereby directed to
97 circulate a copy of this Resolution to all City employees, staff and officials.

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100 THIS RESOLUTION adopted this 22nd day of October 2019.

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102 **CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GEORGIA**

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WILLIAM "BILL" EDWARDS, MAYOR

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ATTEST:

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S. DIANE WHITE, CITY CLERK

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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EMILIA C. WALKER, CITY ATTORNEY

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126 The foregoing RESOLUTION No. 2019-053, adopted on October was offered by
127 Councilmember khalid, who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by
128 Councilmember Baker, and being put to a vote, the result was as follows:
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	AYE	NAY
William "Bill" Edwards, Mayor	_____	_____
Mark Baker, Mayor Pro Tem	<u> X </u>	_____
Catherine Foster Rowell	_____	<u> X </u>
Carmalitha Lizandra Gumbs	_____	<u> X </u>
Helen Zenobia Willis	_____	<u> X </u>
Gertrude Naeema Gilyard	<u> X </u>	_____
Rosie Jackson	<u> X </u>	_____
khalid kamau	<u> X </u>	_____