

RESOLUTION**A RESOLUTION BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA, REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WORK TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING A STATE-WIDE EVICTION RESOLUTION PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority of DeKalb County requests that the DeKalb Delegation of the General Assembly work to support legislation establishing a state-wide eviction resolution program; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused economic unpredictability throughout the State of Georgia, with many of the state's workforce impacted by layoffs, substantially reduced work hours, and have suffered economic hardship, disproportionately affecting low and moderate-income workers resulting in lost wages and the inability to pay for basic household expenses, including rent; and

WHEREAS, thousands of tenants in Georgia are unable to consistently pay their rent, reflecting the continued financial precariousness of many renters in the state. Because the COVID-19 pandemic has led to an inability for tenants to consistently pay rent, the likelihood of evictions has increased, as well as life, health, and safety risks to a significant percentage of the state's tenants; and

WHEREAS, the CDC's eviction moratorium ended on October 3, 2021; As of November 2021, the U.S. Census Household Pulse survey showed that nearly 400,000 Georgians are among the 4.6 million Americans likely to face eviction or foreclosure by January 2022; and

WHEREAS, swift and comprehensive action is needed from the State to address the effects of the pandemic on tenants and landlords, while focusing on the potential long-term effects of the pandemic on both tenants and landlords such as job loss, financial hardship, homelessness, and bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS, in March 2021, the State of Georgia received \$989 million from U.S. Treasury's Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program to provide relief to individuals, families, and landlords whose finances have been negatively impacted, and utilized the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to administer the program to landlords and service providers; and

WHEREAS, while this program addresses the immediate need for financial assistance to prevent homelessness for tenants and rectify delinquent accounts for landlords, the governing authority of DeKalb County believes that a more comprehensive response is needed throughout the State to establish a means by which more permanent eviction resolution processes are afforded to tenants and landlords; and

WHEREAS, states around the nation, such as the State of Washington, have created statewide eviction resolution programs in addition to the assistance provided by the Federal

government, and are working with county superior courts within their states to disseminate aid and resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia, hereby requests that:

1. The General Assembly work to support legislation establishing a state-wide eviction resolution program with the goal of stabilizing housing needs for all parties involved across the State.
2. Within this program is the formation of a dispute resolution center: a network of professionals to assist regarding mediation resources for landlords, tenants, attorneys, and service providers.
3. This program connects participants to other resources as needed, such as legal assistance for eviction proceedings, rental assistance, and rehousing information for individuals across the State.
4. The Executive Assistant or his designee deliver a copy of this Resolution to each member of the Georgia General Assembly 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 of DeKalb County, this ___ day of _____, 2021.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia