

**CITY COUNCIL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

ELMS ID# 32704

A RESOLUTION BY

COUNCILMEMBER ANDREA L. BOONE

A RESOLUTION TO DEDICATE SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$600,000.00) FROM THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR THE CREATION, FUNDING, STAFFING, AND SERVICES FOR A HOUSING HELP CENTER TO ASSIST CITY OF ATLANTA RESIDENTS SEEKING AFFORDABLE HOUSING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, rental and home prices have increased substantially in response to the creation of new public infrastructure and private investment, and the City of Atlanta (the “City) has an obligation to do more to support residents impacted by the tremendous change and rapid growth Atlanta has experienced; and

WHEREAS, without stable and affordable housing, basic public interest outcomes for households including but not limited to educational attainment, job security, entrepreneurial opportunity, health, and wealth, are greatly diminished; and

WHEREAS, failure to address housing stability completely undermines other investments or initiatives to obtain improved social or economic objectives; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Comprehensive Development Plan policy action HC 1.4 called for the City to create a recurring local financing source dedicated to fund affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, in response to this critical need, City Council acted swiftly to amend the Charter of the City to establish the Building the Beloved Community Affordable Housing Trust Fund (the “Affordable Housing Trust Fund”); and

WHEREAS, the intent of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund is make impactful investments that facilitate the construction, preservation, and access to affordable housing across Atlanta to ensure racial and socioeconomic diversity and a wealth of housing options for the City’s residents; and

WHEREAS, in addition to programs and projects funded by the City and its entities, the City is also blessed by a wealth of public, private, and non-profit organizations dedicated to creating and helping residents with affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the City has made significant progress in funding the creation and preservation of affordable housing projects and programs, however, many residents remain unaware of programs and projects they may qualify for in order to maintain their housing affordability and receive assistance when facing housing affordability challenges; and

WHEREAS, information on these resources is decentralized, making it challenging for individual households to find and apply for resources they may qualify for and therefore, the City wishes to make housing resources easily accessible to all residents in both digital and physical formats by creating, funding and staffing a Housing Help Center with full-time experts on the housing resources available in the City of Atlanta to assist residents in their search for affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, in addition to increasing access to existing housing resources, the City also recognizes that funding may be needed for additional resources to identify and place households in affordable housing units; and

WHEREAS, the creation of such a Center requires a cross-functional collaboration between City agencies, departments, public, private, and non-profit organizations, such that available resources are consolidated and updated on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, in order to diagnose the scale of future need in order to create and fund projects and programs that are impactful for City residents and housing affordability, the City would be wise to track and triage the need and availability of specific resources; and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing City residents with updated resources specific to their household needs, the Housing Help Center shall document and report on the needs, availability, and outcomes of the assistance provided to aid City Council in identifying future areas for program and project development; and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve these objectives, City Council desires to utilize Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00) from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for the creation of a Housing Help Center including staffing, technology, administration, operations, and any additional services required to support affordable housing and provide a direct point of engagement for City residents to receive guidance and assistance in their search for affordable housing.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, that the Chief Financial Officer or his designee is authorized to fund a Housing Help Center in a total amount not to exceed Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00) from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to aid City of Atlanta residents in their search for safe and affordable housing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to charge to and pay all associated expenses for the Housing Help Center authorized hereby from the following account:

Fund	Department	Account	Function Activity	Project	Funding Source
7701	040301	5212001	1320000	600465	69999
TRUST FUND	Exe Chief Operating Officer	Consulting / Professional Services	Chief Executive	Affordable Housing Trust	Funding Source for Trust Projects

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that all resolutions or parts of resolutions that are in conflict with the terms of this Resolution are hereby waived to the extent of the conflict.