

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT HOUSING SAVANNAH, INC.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah passed a resolution on October 14, 2021 adopting the Housing Savannah Action Plan (the “Plan”) developed by the Housing Savannah Task Force appointed by the Mayor and Aldermen in August 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force researched Savannah’s housing affordability challenges and found that housing costs in Savannah have outpaced incomes at a rate of at least 2:1 during the past 30 years, resulting in about 21,000 (40%) Savannah households being unable to afford quality housing; and

WHEREAS, the Plan has five (5) Strategies and 43 Action Items, including the need to raise, sustain, and leverage significant local investments for housing affordability initiatives; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish this, the Plan calls for the establishment of, and support for, a Housing Savannah non-governmental organization dedicated, full-time, to increasing awareness, partnerships, and financial resources, including resources for the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF), to support the implementation and achievement of Housing Savannah Action Plan goals; and

WHEREAS, the Plan calls for SAHF and related investments to increase to \$12.5 million annually by 2032 with expectation that these investments will help leverage at least another \$87.5 million annually and result in a sustained overall affordable housing investment of at least \$100 million annually; and

WHEREAS, the Community Housing Services Agency, Inc. (CHSA) is an independent, established and successful 501(c)3 non-profit created in 1989 by community, business and local government leaders to help address area housing needs, challenges and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, CHSA has administered the SAHF in partnership with the City of Savannah since the SAHF’s inception in 2012; and

WHEREAS, CHSA has raised, without dedicated fulltime fundraising staff, more than \$1.1 million for the SAHF and affordable housing, including a record \$222,500 in private donations for the SAHF and \$424,000 from the U.S. Treasury Department in 2021; and

WHEREAS, based upon 33 years of progressively responsible and successful affordable housing experience, CHSA’s Board of Directors has expressed an interest and willingness to establish the new 501(c)3 Housing Savannah, Inc. non-governmental organization under its umbrella to further help implement the Housing Savannah Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the new Housing Savannah, Inc. will be a separate non-profit organization, distinct from Community Housing Services Agency, Inc. and CHSA Development, Inc. and will focus primarily on increasing awareness, partnerships and financial resources to support the implementation and achievement of the Housing Savannah Action Plan goals; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah approved \$300,000 in the City’s 2022 Budget to help fund personnel and administrative costs associated with operation of the new non-governmental organization; and

WHEREAS, Housing Savannah, Inc. will pursue additional administrative funding from other governmental and non-governmental organizations in support of the Housing Savannah Action Plan goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah do hereby support the establishment of Housing Savannah, Inc. as outlined above and authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Housing Savannah, Inc. and provide up to \$300,000 included in the City's FY2022 budget to help offset administrative costs in 2022.

Adopted this 24th day of March 2022.

Van R. Johnson, II, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council