**RESOLUTION ADOPTING REPORT AND**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF RACIAL EQUITY**

**AND LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE**

**WHEREAS**, five days after the May 25, 2020 death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a large, peaceful rally was held in Savannah, which culminated in a speech by Mayor Van R. Johnson II wherein the Mayor implored that it was necessary to create a movement to right the wrongs that kept Savannah from being “the beloved community” envisioned by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 23, 2020, Mayor Johnson appointed 45 citizens drawn from the public sector, private sector, and various community organizations to the Racial Equity and Leadership Task Force (“REAL”) led by former Savannah Mayor and noted scholar, Dr. Otis S. Johnson; and

**WHEREAS**, the REAL Task Force held its first meeting in August 2020 with direction to provide the Mayor and Aldermen with an action plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the REAL Task Force embraced its charge, encapsulated in its mission statement, which provides:

*The mission of [REAL] is to advocate for racial equity*

*in Savannah, Georgia. REAL will identify the systemic*

*and structural barriers caused by racism that make it*

*difficult for people of color to achieve their maximum*

*potential*; and

**WHEREAS**, REAL organized its work to examine six topics that represent some of the major social institutions that provide the structural foundation of a community: criminal justice; economic empowerment and wealth development; education; environmental justice; health; and housing, noting that “[i]t is the efficient and effective functioning of these social institutions that determine the quality of life in a community”; and

**WHEREAS**, the REAL Task Force produced a report entitled *Seeing Savannah Through a Racial Equity Lens*, a thorough and comprehensive report spanning 55 pages, which was formally presented to the Mayor and Aldermen at their October 28, 2021 workshop meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah applaud the REAL Task Force members for their commitment to this critical study, and the diligence with which they executed their duties; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Aldermen concur with the spirit and intent of the findings and recommendations embodied in the report, *Seeing Savannah Through a Racial Equity Lens*, and wish to formally adopt the report as matter of policy to further Dr. King’s vision of fostering a “beloved community” in the City of Savannah,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is hereby RESOLVED that the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah hereby adopt *Seeing Savannah Through a Racial Equity Lens*, to the extent permitted by law and not otherwise inconsistent with the City’s municipal powers as set forth by state law and the City Charter.

Adopted and approved by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, this 9th day of November, 2021.

THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF

THE CITY OF SAVANNAH

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Van R. Johnson II, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mark Massey

Clerk of Council