

**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER
TO CREATE TEMPORARY COOLING AND WARMING CENTERS
DURING EXTREME TEMPERATURE EVENTS**

WHEREAS, extreme heat and cold are major public health concerns, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) predicts increasing frequency and duration of extreme temperature events in the future; and

WHEREAS, exposure to extreme heat and cold can cause a variety of health problems, including death; and

WHEREAS, outside workers, older adults, children, individuals experiencing homelessness, individuals with a mental health disability, and low-income communities without access to air-conditioning are particularly vulnerable to heat- and cold-related illness; and

WHEREAS, designated cooling and warming stations have been shown to prevent heat- and cold-related illness and death in vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the City maintains a number of community centers located in close proximity to the majority of Savannah's residents; and

WHEREAS, these public facilities are equipped with air-conditioning and heating units; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has developed a plan that would convert several of these facilities into temporary daytime cooling centers and overnight warming centers during periods of extreme temperature, as determined by the City Manager in consultation with the City's Emergency Management Director and Chatham County public health officials; and

WHEREAS, upon the determination of an extreme heat event, the City would suspend activities at up to seven City-managed air-conditioned community centers located throughout Savannah, and open the centers for the general public to cool off during the daytime hours; and

WHEREAS, upon the determination of an extreme cold event, the City will convert the Eastside Regional Center, the Grant Regional Center, and the Windsor Forest Regional Center into overnight warming centers, in coordination with public safety professionals and relief organizations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, do hereby direct the City Manager to activate a plan to establish temporary cooling and heating stations for community residents in need during extreme temperature events.

Adopted this 26th Day of May 2022.

Van R. Johnson, II, Mayor

Attest: _____

Clerk of Council