

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH TO APPROVE
*COMMON GROUND: THE MASTER PLAN FOR SAVANNAH'S CANAL DISTRICT AND
ACTION PLAYBOOK: COLLECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CANAL DISTRICT
MASTER PLAN***

WHEREAS, the Canal District is located on the west side of Savannah near the intersection of Gwinnett Street and Stiles Avenue, encompassing historic and vibrant neighborhoods including Brickyard, Historic Carver Village, Cloverdale, and West Savannah, and is anchored by the new Enmarket Arena; and

WHEREAS, the land that comprises the Canal District is a mix of industry, residential neighborhoods, and vital water infrastructure that together tell the story of Savannah's evolution from its founding on Yamacraw Bluff to the present day, offering a unique opportunity to shape the next chapter of our community's growth; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the City of Savannah initiated an inclusive planning process for the Canal District, which culminated in the creation of *Common Ground: The Master Plan for Savannah's Canal District* and the *Action Playbook: Collective Implementation of the Canal District Master Plan*, referred to as the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan envisions the Canal District as a place of new common ground in Savannah, where historic communities are protected, nature is restored, civic life is elevated, and future growth is guided by shared principles of equity and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan and Action Playbook aim to align communication, policy, and community action to develop resilient places and a stronger city by pursuing four core goals:

- **To Guide:** Establish long-term leadership and resources to ensure the vision is achieved;
- **For People:** Protect and promote community culture;
- **For Nature:** Rebuild natural systems and mitigate flooding;
- **For Places:** Preserve and create celebrated spaces; and

WHEREAS, the planning process involved robust public engagement in 2019 through a series of community workshops including a Listening Workshop, a Visioning Workshop, the "District Connections: Water and People" event focused on drainage, and a Design Review Summit to share the draft Plan with an expert panel and public feedback; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2025, the City of Savannah hosted a Canal District trolley tour attended by neighborhood leaders from Brickyard, Carver Village, Cloverdale, and West Savannah, community stakeholders, and members of City Council. During the tour, City staff presented updates on key initiatives including historic preservation, recreation, stormwater management, economic development, and transportation safety and mobility; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the Canal District Master Plan and Action Playbook will emphasize sustained collaboration among neighborhoods, City departments, and community

partners, while continuing to identify and address additional needs critical to realizing the Master Plan's goals; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan directly support the City of Savannah's GPS Strategic Plan with emphasis on Goal 3: Expand Economic Access, Opportunity and Vitality for All;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah hereby approve *Common Ground: The Master Plan for Savannah's Canal District* and the *Action Playbook: Collective Implementation of the Canal District Master Plan* as guiding documents for future planning, investment, and development in the Canal District, and commit to the principles of equity, sustainability, and collaborative implementation embedded therein.

Adopted and approved this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Van R. Johnson, II
Mayor

Mark Massey
Clerk of Council