

**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL ACTS DESIGNED TO COMBAT
HOMELESSNESS IN THE SAVANNAH AREA**

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) requires that each community have a planning body to oversee comprehensive homelessness services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Savannah recognizes the urgent need for coordinated efforts to address homelessness and, in 2023, formally adopted the Interagency Council on Homelessness (“ICH”) to guide the community’s response to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless (“CSAH”) reported that during the 2024 Point-in-Time Count, 579 individuals were experiencing homelessness in Chatham County, with 386 in shelters and 193 unsheltered; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2024, the Savannah Chatham Interagency on Homelessness Board of Directors adopted a five-year strategic plan to make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring in Chatham County helping us attain “functional zero;” and

WHEREAS, lack of housing contributes to poor physical and mental health outcomes, and connections to permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness will continue to be a priority; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of homelessness affect neighborhoods, businesses, the quality of life of residents, and the sense of safety for all members of community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Savannah recognizes the critical need for legislative action to ensure the long-term sustainability of the ICH and to strengthen homelessness response efforts; and

WHEREAS, the ICH and CSAH have worked collaboratively to develop two local legislative acts, one to formally establish the ICH under Georgia law, and another to amend the purpose and codify the position of collaborative applicant for CSAH; and

WHEREAS, the proposed local acts aim to enhance support services and access to housing for individuals experiencing homelessness while addressing the public health and safety issues caused by homelessness;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah hereby proclaims its full support for the two local acts proposed by our local delegation to the General Assembly, recognizing these measures as essential to reducing homelessness and ensuring stable housing for all Savannah residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City urges all members of the local delegation to the General Assembly to support and enact these local acts, reaffirming Savannah’s commitment to addressing homelessness and housing insecurity.

SO RESOLVED this 27th day of February, 2025.

**THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY
OF SAVANNAH**

By: _____
Van R Johnson II, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Mark Massey, Clerk of Council