A RESOLUTION
PLEDGING TO PRACTICE AND PROMOTE CIVILITY IN THE CITY OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

WHEREAS, The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, (the "Council"), the governing body of the City of Savannah, Georgia (the "Municipality"), recognizes that robust debate and the right to self-expression, as protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, are fundamental rights and essential components of democratic self-governance; and

WHEREAS, the Council further recognizes that the public exchange of diverse ideas and viewpoints is necessary to the health of the community and the quality of governance in the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Council as elected representatives of the community and stewards of the public trust, recognize their special role in modeling open, free and vigorous debate while maintaining the highest standards of civility, honesty and mutual respect; and

WHEREAS, City Council meetings are open to the public and thus how City officials execute their legal duties is on public display; and

WHEREAS, civility by City officials in the execution of their legislative duties and responsibilities fosters respect, kindness and thoughtfulness between City officials, avoiding personal ill will which results in actions being directed to issues made in the best interests of residents; and

WHEREAS, civility between City officials presents an opportunity to set a positive example of conduct and promotes thoughtful debate and discussion of legislative issues, resulting in better public policy and a more informed electorate while also encouraging civil behavior between residents; and

WHEREAS, civility between City officials is possible if each member of the elected body remembers that they represent not only themselves, but the constituents of their district and city; and

WHEREAS, in order to publicly declare its commitment to civil discourse and to express its concern for the common good and well-being of all of its residents, the Council has determined to adopt this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE

The Council pledges to practice and promote civility within the governing body as a means of conducting legislative duties and responsibilities.

SECTION TWO

The elected officials of the Council this civility pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of the City of Savannah.

SECTION THREE

This pledge strives to ensure that all communication be open, honest, and transparent as this is vital for cultivating trust and relationships.

SECTION FOUR

This pledge strives to show courtesy by treating all colleagues, staff and members of the public in a professional and respectful manner whether in-person, online or in written communication, especially when we disagree.

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SECTION FIVE

This pledge strives to ensure mutual respect to achieve municipal goals, recognizing that patience, tolerance and civility are imperative to success and demonstrates the Council's commitment to respect different opinions, by inviting and considering different perspectives, allowing space for ideas to be expressed, debated, opposed, and clarified in a constructive manner.

SECTION SIX

This pledge demonstrates our commitment against violence and incivility in all their forms whenever and wherever they occur in all our meetings and interactions.

SECTION SEVEN

The City of Savannah expects members of the public to be civil in its discussion of matters under consideration by and before the Council, with elected officials, staff, and each other.

ADOPTED this _____ day of November 2026.

Mayor Van R. Johnson, II

Alderwoman Carolyn H. Bell, Post 1 At-Large

Alderwoman Alicia Miller Blakely, Post 2 At-Large

Alderwoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1

Alderman Detric Leggett, District 2

Alderwoman Linda Wilder, District 3

Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Estella Edwards Shabazz
District 5

Alderman Kurtis Purtee, District 6

ATTEST:

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council