

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT AND FIRST YEAR FUNDING FOR A  
COUNTYWIDE “HOUSING UNITED” INITIATIVE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHATHAM  
COUNTY, THE SAVANNAH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (SEDA), AND THE  
COMMUNITY HOUSING SERVICES AGENCY, INC. (CHSA).**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah (City) established the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF) in 2012 to address local affordable housing challenges and opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Aldermen adopted the 2021 Housing Savannah Action Plan (HSAP) developed by a citizen-led housing taskforce; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and its partners have been successfully implementing and meeting goals of the HSAP including those for increasing SAHF funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and its partners, along with the Chatham County government (Chatham County) and the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA), recognize the need to expand affordable and workforce housing initiatives and fundraising called for in the HSAP countywide to assist people in need of housing including the unhoused, renters, homeowners, and homebuyers; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2023 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey data indicates that approximately 36% of county households cannot afford quality housing; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of affordable and workforce housing is a detriment to a community’s citizenry and its economy; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments, non-profit housing organizations, and the private sector, working together, can help preserve and create more affordable and workforce housing; and

**WHEREAS**, doing so requires increasing local funding and resources that can leverage traditional private sector and other investments for affordable and workforce housing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Housing Services Agency, Inc. (CHSA), a non-profit housing organization, was established by civic, bank, and community leaders in 1989 to fund and finance various housing initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, CHSA in partnership with local governments, non-profits, foundations, lending institutions, developers, contractors, and others has successfully undertaken and participated in a wide variety of affordable and workforce housing activities that include diversified housing financing, homebuyer awareness, fundraising, housing fund management, lending, housing repairs, and housing development; and

**WHEREAS**, CHSA bylaws enable it to serve all of Chatham county, including unincorporated areas and other municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City, Chatham County, and SEDA (the Parties) wish to jointly support and fund the expansion of CHSA services to enhance its ability to raise funds and deliver affordable and workforce housing strategies countywide; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties agree that this countywide affordable and workforce housing initiative shall be known as **HOUSING UNITED** and that funds raised shall be managed and deployed to eligible projects and programs by CHSA; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties have agreed to provide first year **HOUSING UNITED** administrative and operational funding to CHSA upon approval by their respective governing bodies to include \$151,000 from the City, \$191,000 from Chatham County, and \$191,000 from SEDA.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah authorize the City Manager to enter into a **HOUSING UNITED** agreement with Chatham County, SEDA, and CHSA, and to provide CHSA with \$151,000 in 2026 as described above to help implement **HOUSING UNITED** activities which include raising money for the SAHF and Savannah housing activities.

Adopted this 11th day of December 2025

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Van R. Johnson, II, Mayor

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Mark Massey, Clerk of Council