



## NEWS RELEASE

### Department of Communications

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*City of South Fulton Government*

### **City of South Fulton City Council Hires Firm to Help Drive Economic Future**

(CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GEORGIA, Wednesday, April 24, 2019) The City of South Fulton City Council passed a resolution authorizing the City to enter into an agreement with the BAE Urban Economics to prepare its Economic Development Strategic Plan.

The plan will provide specific guidance, in the form of short-term, medium-term, and long-term objectives, goals and strategies, to enhance the city's business climate. The plan is expected to encourage entrepreneurship and create high-paying jobs, resulting in increased tax base.

"I am excited about the Council's decision. This allows the City to engage with qualified experts who can assist us in developing a comprehensive strategic plan that will result in the development of a strong economic base for our City and a diversified economy," said City Manager, Odie Donald II.

The plan is also expected to help the City to expand its economic base and provide residents a higher quality of life. BAE Urban Economics' scope of work includes performing a thorough assessment of the City of South Fulton's current economic position through informational meetings with staff, residents, and key stakeholders, review of past and current economic development programs, and collection of demographic, economic and real estate data. The assessment will also include a review of the economic development performance of competitive communities compared to that of the City of South Fulton.

Upon completion, BAE will provide its findings to City staff, an established steering committee and small focus group sessions comprised of business leaders (owners of small and large businesses), economic development partners (including representatives from the Chamber of Commerce and other business groups) and residents.

"As a new city, having a strategic plan dedicated to Economic Development is vitally important to the success of our community for the next fifteen to twenty years," stated Economic Development Administrator Christopher Pike. "We look forward to engaging City of South Fulton residents in the development of a shared community vision for the City."

BAE is a national real estate and urban economics consulting firm that provides advisory services to clients including cities, counties, and other government agencies.

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