



NEWS RELEASE

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City of South Fulton Government

City of South Fulton City Council Passes ‘Ban the Box’ Ordinance

(CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GEORGIA, January 23, 2019) The City of South Fulton City Council passed the ‘Ban the Box’ Ordinance at its January 22nd meeting with a 6 to 1 vote.

Sponsored by Mayor Pro Tem Mark Baker, the legislation seeks to ensure that qualified persons with criminal convictions are afforded City employment opportunities.

“The way we reduce crime is by creating more choices to deter people from committing crimes in the first place. We need to ask ourselves are they qualified, can they do the work, and do they possess the skill? This will reduce recidivism and incite us to plan more restorative events especially for nonviolent offenders. It’s cheaper to job than to jail, and therefore it’s promisingly progressive of our government to turn criminals into taxpayers!” said Mayor Pro Tem Mark Baker.

Baker also explained that according to the National Employment Law Project, 33 states and over 150 cities and counties have adopted what is widely known as ‘ban the box’ so that employers consider a job candidate’s qualification first—without the stigma of a conviction or arrest record.

Momentum for these policies has grown exponentially, particularly in recent years. At the national level, President Obama endorsed ‘ban the box’ by directing federal agencies to delay inquiries into job applicant’s records until later in the hiring process.

“I am working with Fulton County Solicitor Keith Gammage to plan and host several events that will offer criminal record expungement of a person’s arrest history. We have to get our people back to work,” Baker said.

Baker was recently re-elected unanimously by his colleagues to serve a second consecutive term as Mayor Pro Tem. He also serves as the City of South Fulton’s District 7 Councilman.

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