

City Manager's Transmittal Letter

GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF SOUTH FULTON

Office of the City Manager

WILLIAM "BILL" EDWARDS
MAYOR



ODIE DONALD II
CITY MANAGER

July 31, 2018

The Honorable Mayor William "Bill" Edwards
and City of South Fulton Council
5440 Fulton Industrial Blvd. SW
South Fulton, Georgia 30336

Dear Honorable Mayor Edwards and City Council,

On behalf of the citizens of the City of South Fulton and the multiple departments and staff, I am honored to transmit to you the Adopted City of South Fulton Fiscal Year 2019 Budget, focused on "Moving South Fulton Forward." This budget provides an in-depth look at our financial and operational future as well as highlights the commitments made to the citizens of South Fulton. I will outline critical investments of over \$70 million in key areas such as public safety, Parks & Recreation, planning and zoning, economic development, and public works (specifically transportation) focused on ensuring the City of South Fulton successfully completes transition and remains *South Fulton Strong*.

The budget before you reflects the ideas and priorities of South Fulton residents and delivers on our unified commitment of world class service delivery for every South Fulton resident. From again investing heavily in the administration of Parks & Recreation to allocating funding over the next five years for the continued modernization of our fleet, this budget continues to Move South Fulton Forward. This budget also maintains critical investments to build a safer, stronger South Fulton and to ensure our residents have access to transparency tools that will put them squarely in the center of our government's accountability efforts.

A Safer, Stronger South Fulton

The City is committed to ensuring that all residents feel and are safe, providing an environment where businesses can succeed and thrive. To that end, the FY2019 budget includes the following investments:

- New vehicles to expand the police and fire apparatus fleet
- Investments in public safety personnel, allowing the City to recruit and retain SFPD officers
- Investments in essential software related to crime suppression and investigations
- Investment in 311 activities to reduce the burden on 911 related to non-emergency calls

Destination South Fulton

Maintaining a strong, diverse, and resilient South Fulton requires that business and industry have the ability to operate in an environment that supports commerce. We accomplish this by nurturing small business assets, and intentionally connecting local businesses to government

service delivery. Some ways the FY2019 Budget supports South Fulton as a key destination for businesses include:

- A \$100,000 investment in a business incubator
- The alignment of business services under economic development
- A \$25,000 investment in retention focused incentives and grants for small businesses operating within the City limits
- Investing in outreach and education events targeting business and industry, allowing for business open houses and connection events

High Performing Government

As our City continues to grow, we must approve these critical investments to ensure that citizens in all seven Districts benefit from our inclusive prosperity. It is imperative that we make all of the critical investments in our Fiscal Year 2019 Budget and Financial Plan to ensure that residents in all seven districts receive world class services and municipal support. Key among these activities is the development of the City's strategic plan. This plan will codify the Mayor-Council's vision for the City and provide strategic direction allowing for the development and implementation of departmental goals and performance measures. Building a government that works for the citizens of South Fulton streamlines processes and improves efficiency. The FY2019 budget supports these efforts by:

- Allocating more than \$1 million in technology investments ensuring efficient government operations across all service areas
- Funding for 311 operations
- Allocating \$100,000 for a pay and class study to review staff and Council salaries
- Standing up an Office of Risk Management
- Investing in professional development and staff training
- Investing to expand and connect new and existing transparency initiatives such as *OpenGov*, the Mayor's Walk (and subsequent reporting tools), performance management software, and the *See.Click.Fix* reporting platform.
- Expanding the existing contracting and procurement functions to include contract monitoring and compliance expertise
- Committing \$175,000 for tax collection support, asset management, and fiscal operations support

In a city with the potential of ours, we can and should make all of the critical investments necessary to ensure that residents in all seven districts receive world class service delivery in a safe environment focused on inclusive prosperity. I am honored to serve our dynamic elected officials in reaching this goal.

In Service,



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