

# GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF SOUTH FULTON

## Office of the City Manager

WILLIAM “BILL” EDWARDS  
MAYOR



ODIE DONALD II  
CITY MANAGER

August 2, 2019

The Honorable Mayor William “Bill” Edwards  
5440 Fulton Industrial Blvd. SW  
South Fulton, Georgia 30336

Dear Honorable Mayor Edwards,

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 proposed City of South Fulton Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, focused on creating “Building Blocks For Sustainable Governance.” 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 and recreation, planning and zoning, economic development, and transportation focused on ensuring the City of South Fulton fully realizes its extreme potential.

The budget strongly reflects the priorities of our Council and delivers on our unified commitment of world class service delivery for every South Fulton resident. This commitment is exemplified through allocations to initiatives that support your vision for the City.

### *A Safer, Stronger South Fulton*

The City is committed to ensuring that all residents feel and are safe, providing an environment where communities can succeed and thrive. To that end, the FY2020 budget aligns key services under public safety including the Park Ranger program, the Code Enforcement division and the following investments:

- New vehicles to expand the public safety fleet, highlighted by three new additions to the fire apparatus fleet
- Investments in public safety personnel, allowing the City to recruit and retain SFPD officers, including the region’s highest entry-level salary for police officers at \$52,000 and fire fighters at \$44,926
- Investments in essential software, creating a path forward to independently administer e-911 services
- Investment in 311 activities to reduce the burden on 911 related to non-emergency calls
- Expanding on the Fy2019 pilots for new mini-precincts, a public safety headquarters on Old National Highway, police worn body cameras and doubling down on the City’s initial private security camera program

### *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. The FY2020 Budget supports South Fulton as a key destination for businesses in a variety of ways including:

- Supporting a small business resource center on Old National Highway through new programming focused on revitalizing the City's largest commercial corridor
- The creation of the South Fulton Convention and Visitor's Bureau
- Financing key investments in land acquisitions and development opportunities through funding for the South Fulton Development Authority
- A \$600K investment in the South Fulton Tennis Center, solidifying one of the City's most popular tourist attractions and sports venues
- Investing in outreach and education events targeting business and industry, allowing for business open houses and connection events

### *Investing in Quality of Life*

South Fulton residents have access to the region's most diverse parks system, highlighted by more than 700 acres of parks land, forty tennis courts, and forty-four athletic fields. Through the FY2020 budget citizens will now have access world-class entertainment through the planned acquisitions of Wolf Creek Amphitheatre and Southwest Arts Center, overseen by the revamped department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs. Further, the pending completion of the City's first Parks Master Plan will formalize the South Fulton Greenway Trail Plan, which would be rivaled only by the Atlanta Beltline. Additionally, this draft budget includes initial investments in public art projects set to highlight the diverse talents of our citizens, while displaying the unique character and individuality of each of the City's seven districts. These investments jump start our efforts to deliver on the promises of cityhood, providing access to what will surely be the nation's most diverse parks system.

### *Transportation As A Tool For Transformation*

In FY2019 the City, for the first time, gained control of Transportation services. The results of local control over these services resulted in one of the state's most efficiently run TSPLOST programs with more than seventy miles of paved road in a single fiscal year. The FY2020 budget expands on these investments by investing more than \$10 million in support of state and federally supported bridge repair and maintenance activities. The City has also committed to focus heavily on beautification through the Adopt A Road program, five unique LCI projects, the exploration of gateway signage, and replacing outdated Fulton County signs at various entry points throughout the City.

### *High Performing Government*

As our City continues to grow, we must approve these critical investments to ensure that citizens have access to a high performing government. Building a government that works for the citizens of South Fulton streamlines processes and improves efficiency. The FY2020 budget supports these efforts by:

- Ensuring all South Fulton employees earn a competitive wage in excess of \$15/hour, supporting employee retention and attraction
- Allocating \$60K to launch the South Fulton Citizens Academy
- Expanding the City's initial efforts to define boundaries and make government more accessible by:
  - Establishing a primary zip code
  - Increasing GIS mapping capabilities
- Diversifying revenue beyond traditional property and sales tax sources by exploring the feasibility of public utility services focused on telephone and internet services below market rate.

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 with you and our dynamic elected officials to reach this goal.

In Service,



Odie Donald II