



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Communications and External Affairs

Media Contact:

Sheena Screen, Communications Specialist

404-979-4561 (cell) - sheena.screen@cityofsouthfultonga.gov

5440 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, SW Atlanta, GA 30336

www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov

Facebook – COSFGA17 / Twitter – #COSFGA / Instagram – @COSFGA

City Keeps Fulton Industrial Commitment with \$3M Purchase of Public Safety Vehicles

(CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GA – June 8, 2021) – City of South Fulton officials are making good on their commitment to improve safety on Fulton Industrial Boulevard with a \$3 million investment in new police and fire vehicles to serve the area.

Today, city council members approved the purchase of 40 sport utility vehicles and two pumper trucks. Police and fire officials will use the vehicles to patrol a 7-mile stretch of the highway annexed by the city last month.

“The addition of Fulton Industrial Boulevard presents new challenges for our law enforcement and fire service professionals,” said Mayor William “Bill” Edwards. “We are ensuring they have the necessary equipment to keep residents and businesses in the area safe and protected.”

Purchasing the SUVs, which carry a combined cost of nearly \$1.4 million, is the first step in building a presence along Fulton Industrial, according to Police Chief Keith Meadows.

“In recent years, the portion of Fulton Industrial near Interstate 20 has become one of the most dangerous areas in metro Atlanta,” he said. “We’re actively pursuing drug sales and other illegal activity. One of the ways we plan to combat crime in the area is to increase our police presence.”

In coming weeks, Meadows plans to ask city officials to approve the addition of about 40 new officers as he expands the number of police beats along Fulton Industrial to six. That will allow greater coverage as well as provide officers more time to focus on community policing and building relationships with residents and business owners.

The council’s approval of new fire engines lets fire officials complete lease-purchase agreements for two emergency pumper trucks that can serve on both emergency and fire calls.

“We are replacing two of our oldest engines that were purchased in 2002, before the city’s existence,” said Fire Chief Chad Jones. “Adding these vehicles brings us into compliance with National Fire Protection Association guidelines and helps improve our service delivery.”

###