



MEDIA ADVISORY

Department of Communications and External Affairs

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City of South Fulton Government

South Fulton Sets to Minimize Health and Safety Concerns as Eviction Moratorium Ends

(City of South Fulton, GA – July 30, 2021) – With the federal moratorium on evictions set to expire this weekend, City of South Fulton officials have a plan to prevent dangerous and unsightly collections in the city's public rights-of-way.

Implemented last September by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the moratorium prevented lenders and landlords from evicting those behind on rent because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Just before the moratorium was set to end June 30, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to extend it until July 31, but failed to approve further extension.

"The City of South Fulton stepped in to help where we could by offering a rent and mortgage assistance program that helped more than 350 families," said Mayor William "Bill" Edwards. "We're investigating additional funding sources to continue the program. Despite our best efforts, many residents still face eviction as the moratorium ends."

The situation poses different challenges for the city, according to Code Enforcement Administrator Brian Morris. Traditionally, an evicted person's belongings are placed off the affected property.

"We've never seen this before – ever – on such a scale," Morris said. "With this many evictions possible, the city faces real; safety and health concerns."

Beyond unsightly roadsides, city officials are working to prevent illegal dumping and traffic issues. Any household waste left at the roadside could attract wildlife into residential neighborhoods.

Morris said code officers will adhere strictly to the city's right-of-way obstruction ordinance, which states that property owners can be cited if an issue is not resolved within 24 hours of notice being given.

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In such instances, the city's Public Works Department will be notified of any violations and the property owners will be charged fees for any cleared items.

"The end of the moratorium creates an unfortunate set of circumstances for residents and the city," Morris said. "We simply are working proactively to limit health and safety concerns that may occur as a result."

Anyone needing more information about the planned code enforcement activity can contact the city's 24-hour call center at (407) 552-4311.

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About the City of South Fulton

Home to more than 100,000 residents, the City of South Fulton is Georgia's fifth-largest city. It covers more than 85 square miles and features both urban and rural landscapes with the most undeveloped land on metro Atlanta's southern side. Incorporated on May 1, 2017, South Fulton is among Georgia's youngest and fastest-growing cities – on the rise and recognized as the place you want to be. Learn more, download our smartphone app and connect with us on social media at cityofsouthfultonga.gov.