



NEWS RELEASE

City of South Fulton Government

Department of Communications and External Affairs

Media Contact:

Gary Leftwich, Director of Communications and External Affairs

470-825-1950 (cell) - gary.leftwich@cityofsouthfultonga.gov

5440 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, SW Atlanta, GA 30336

www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov

Facebook – COSF17 / Twitter – #COSFGA / Instagram – cosfga

Task Force to Create List of Properties for Renaming Because of Confederate Ties

(City of South Fulton, GA – Aug. 25, 2021) – Seeking to remove Confederate ties from public properties, City of South Fulton officials created a task force Tuesday that will pull together a list of streets, buildings and other properties named after Confederate figures with the goal of renaming them.

The eight-member committee will work with the city's historical preservation committee over six months to identify public streets, buildings, parks, bridges and other properties associated with Confederate figures or ideals. The process received unanimous support from city council members.

“With the unrest last summer and the current political climate, residents have come to me expressing the desire to remove any racist or Confederate connection to the streets in our city,” said District 2 Councilwoman Carmalitha Gumbs, who sponsored the resolution with District 3 Councilwoman Helen Z. Willis.

According to the resolution, the effort will ensure all properties “linked to this painful era in American history that is associated with the Confederacy are identified and removed from the city.” Committee members will spend a significant amount time going beyond simple property names and research the people behind those names.

“It is important that we do the research to learn our history so we can move on from a racist and painful past that many residents remain unsettled with,” Willis said.

Wanting to collaborate with other council members to ensure a unified stance on the issue, Gumbs looked to other cities – such as Charlotte, N.C. – which have appointed resident committees to manage similar processes.

-MORE-

Property Renaming Task Force... Page Two

“That helped shape the direction we want to go in our city and will allow us to get more input from residents,” Gumbs said, adding that the committee will include a member from each of the city’s seven council districts. “I want the process to be as inclusive as possible and reach across district lines, so everyone is involved.”

Task force members will comb through all street and property names and forward to the city council a list of those where name changes are recommended.

“We then would work with the community to determine appropriate names for these streets and facilities,” Willis said.

###

About the City of South Fulton

Home to more than 107,000 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 fast-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.