



## 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](mailto:gary.leftwich@cityofsouthfultonga.gov)

5440 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, SW Atlanta, GA 30336

[www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov](http://www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov)

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

### **Fulton County Honors Rowell for Environmental Work**

(City of South Fulton, GA – October 19, 2022) – The Fulton County Commission recognized City of South Fulton District 1 Councilwoman Dr. Catherine F. Rowell today during its Environmental Awards ceremony.

District 6 Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman nominated Rowell for the honor, which was presented with honors from other districts. Each year, the commission recognizes an individual from each county district whose efforts and advocacy exemplify environmentally-sound practices that align with the county's strategic plan.

“This award truly is an honor because it highlights the commitment of city council and staff to respond to citizens desire to ensure South Fulton adopts sustainable practices,” Rowell said. “Being environmentally conscious requires far more than just a desire to protect and improve our surroundings. It takes commitment and action. My colleagues have supported several policy initiatives to position the city to be a model.”

Rowell is leading the city's charge to obtain the Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Communities Designation. This year, it achieved the New Leaf designation and now it is moving fast towards reaching the bronze level. For the past five years, Rowell has partnered with the Cascade Business and Merchants Association on monthly cleanups of the Cascade Road commercial corridor. She also has hosted annual service projects on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday to beautify the city.

Since taking office in 2017, Rowell has sponsored ordinances and resolutions demonstrating her commitment to protecting the environment, conserving energy and protecting natural resources. Because of her efforts, residents can participate in the National Flood Program, which allows citizens to secure flood insurance and the city to secure federal grants and loans to mitigate flood risk.

She has worked with the American Cancer Society to sponsor legislation prohibiting smoking at outdoor park facilities and places of employment; introduced legislation to develop a park, recreation, trail and open space master plan for the City of South Fulton and offered an expedited plan review for developers to adopt sustainable and green building certifications.

**-MORE-**

## **Rowell Environmental Award... Page 2**

Rowell created the anti-blight tax, which established criteria for identification of blighted properties and imposed an increased ad valorem tax and heavy penalties to address community blight and slumlords. She also established guidelines for the city to plan, design and construct, renovate and manage city-owned facilities in a sustainable way.

Rowell sponsored a resolution to acknowledge October as Agritourism Month and highlighted 15 agribusinesses operating in the city limits. She established a partnership with Trees for Atlanta in support of the One Million Trees initiative to protect trees and plants. South Fulton has set a goal of planting at least 1,000 trees in the city's parks and right of way over the next three years.

Rowell has worked in partnership with the Southeast Trust for Parks and Land to establish the Campbellton Nature Preserve Park, which conserves 81 acres of park land and greenspace in District 1. Plans for the park include some 5 miles of multi-use trails for walking and mountain biking; nature education signs; native grass, shrub, fruit tree and nut tree propagation with food forest characteristics; a bike pump track; wildlife support elements; and other efforts to enhance the public use and conservation values of the property. The Westlake Cross Country Track Team recently designated the park as its training and conditioning site.

###

### **About the City of South Fulton**

Home to nearly 108,600 residents, the City of South Fulton is Georgia's seventh-largest city. It covers more than 86 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 – a city on the rise. Learn more, download our smartphone app and connect with us on social media at [cityofsouthfultonga.gov](http://cityofsouthfultonga.gov).