



## NEWS RELEASE

### Department of Communication

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## *City of South Fulton Government*

### **Judge Orders Landfill Owner to Pay \$125,000 in Fines for Violating Contempt Order**

(City of South Fulton, GA – May 16, 2023) – A Fulton County judge has ordered the owner of a local landfill to pay \$125,000 in fines for failing to follow a court order outlining steps for cleaning the site.

In an order dated May 9, Fulton County Superior Court Judge Belinda Edwards found that landfill owner T. Ross Bullock failed to meet requirements of a separate contempt order filed in September 2022.

“Specifically, the evidence showed that Bullock had removed 380 cubic yards of material, well short of the 6,000 cubic yards the contempt order required him to remove,” Edwards wrote in the May 9 order, adding that Bullock claimed he did not remove the material because of plans to close the landfill in place or sell the property.

“However, the contempt order explicitly required that Bullock continue to remove material prior to a sale or while preparing to close the landfill,” Edwards wrote.

Bullock also failed to comply with requirements that he file monthly reports showing his compliance. Under the terms of the contempt order, each missed deadline carried a penalty of \$25,000.

Edwards fined Bullock for missed deadlines in October, November and December of 2022 as well as January and February 2023. Bullock must pay the fines by June 30.

Additionally, citing a history of fires at the site, Edwards ordered that Bullock take all reasonable steps to prevent fires, suppress smoke, monitor the site for fires and smoke and extinguish any fires as soon as possible within 24 hours. If a fire cannot be put out in that time, Bullock must file a written notice with the court explaining the measures he has taken and a timeline for extinguishing the fire. [Read the judge’s order.](#)

The unpermitted landfill operated for years before catching fire in September 2018. Fueled by construction debris, including wood, trees and stumps, the site burned for eight months. Residents have reported flareups in more recent years. The excessive smoke became a nuisance for many residents in the area as well as a health concern, particularly for those with existing respiratory problems. At one point, Bullock faced a fine of more than \$1 million if he did not clean the site.

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

Home to nearly 108,000 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](http://cityofsouthfultonga.gov).