

1 **RESOLUTION TO AMEND FULTON COUNTY CODE SECTION 101-66**
2 **REGARDING THE PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION OF THE AGENDA**
3

4 **WHEREAS**, on January 19, 1994, the Board of Commissioners of Fulton
5 County approved Item 93-RC-701 adopting rules of order and procedure
6 governing the organization and procedure of its meetings, the Fulton County
7 Board of Commissioners' Procedural Rules (hereinafter "Rules");

8 **WHEREAS**, the Rules, as amended, are codified in Fulton County Code
9 Sections 101-61 et seq.;

10 **WHEREAS**, Rule 6, codified in Fulton County Code Section 101-66,
11 relates in part, to the procedure and method by which members of the public may
12 discuss an item of importance during the public comment section of the Agenda
13 at the BOC meetings;

14 **WHEREAS**, since the date of approval of Item 93-RC-701, the Board of
15 Commissioners of Fulton County has amended several of these Rules, including
16 the portion of Rule 6 related to public comment, upon approval of Item 99-1017;

17 **WHEREAS**, the portion of Rule 6 governing public comment requires each
18 member of the public who wishes to speak at a Board of Commissioners'
19 meeting to complete a speaker card and submit the completed card to a member
20 of the Clerk's staff, prior to the commencement of public comment;

21 **WHEREAS**, Rule 6 also currently grants members of the public up to two
22 minutes each to provide public comment;

1 **WHEREAS**, Rule 6 limits the public comment portion of the meeting so
2 that it will not exceed 15 minutes at the Regular Meeting, nor exceed 30 minutes
3 at the Recess Meeting;

4 **WHEREAS**, Rule 6 further provides that members of the public who are
5 not able to speak due to time limitations or, for other reasons, the right to speak
6 first at a subsequent meeting;

7 **WHEREAS**, Rule 6 does not specifically provide whether or not a member
8 of the public can yield or donate any of their time to another member of the
9 public; however, in practice, members of the public have been allowed to do so;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County finds that this
12 practice of yielding or donating time may sometimes limit the ability of some
13 members of the public wishing to speak on a topic the right to do so at a BOC
14 meeting they attend when one of more members of the public are able to provide
15 comments in excess of two minutes;

16 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County also finds that
17 the practice of yielding or donating time to other speakers sometimes is
18 disruptive and discourages the ability to conduct an efficient meeting;

19 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners
20 of Fulton County, Georgia hereby amends Rule 6 of the Fulton County Board of
21 Commissioners' Procedural Rules, as codified in Section 101-66 related to Public
22 Comment to read as follows:

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Public Comment

During the Public Comment portion of the Board Meeting, citizens may voice County-related requests, concerns, opinions, etc.

At the Regular Meeting, speakers will be heard prior to the zoning portion of the agenda; at the Recess Meeting, prior to the County Manager’s Unfinished Business.

Before speaking, each participant must fill out a speaker card, located at the entryway, podium, and media and court reporter tables. All speaker cards must be submitted to the Clerk’s staff, prior to the commencement of public comment, who will accept them on a first-come, first – served basis.

Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. Members of the public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers.

THE PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION OF THE MEETING WILL NOT EXCEED THIRTY MINUTES AT THE REGULAR MEETING, NOR WILL THIS PORTION EXCEED THIRTY MINUTES AT THE RECESS MEETING. Citizens who do not get an opportunity to speak will be allowed to speak first at a subsequent meeting. The Clerk will hold their speaker cards until the date they choose to return.

If the subject matter involves an issue to be resolved, the citizen should first contact the County Manager’s Office, which will ensure

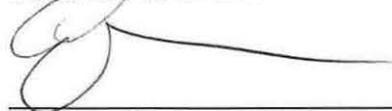
1 that the relevant Department Heads and other individuals are
2 contacted to rectify the matter. If the issue cannot be resolved
3 through the County Manager's efforts, the citizen may then contact
4 a Commissioner so that the matter can be placed on a Board
5 Meeting agenda. The Commissioner should then inform the Clerk
6 by memorandum stating the subject to be discussed and the citizen
7 who will speak. The address and phone number of the citizen
8 should be conveyed. Any supporting material germane to the issue
9 should also be submitted.

10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall take effect upon
11 its adoption, and all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict with this
12 Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this amendment shall be codified in
14 Fulton County Code Section 101-66 all other portions of Rule 6 as codified in
15 Fulton County Code Section 101-66 shall remain unchanged.

16 **SO PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County,
17 Georgia this 16th day of September, 2015.

18 **SPONSORED BY:**

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20 _____
21 Lee Morris, Commissioner
22 District 3

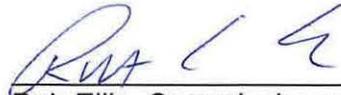
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25 John Eaves, Chair
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ITEM # 15-0329 RCS 9/16/15
RECESS MEETING

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Liz Hausmann, Vice-Chair


Bob Ellis, Commissioner
District 2

ATTEST:




Mark Massey, Clerk to the
Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Jerolyn Webb Ferrari, Interim County
Attorney

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ITEM # 15.0829 RCS 9/16/15
RECESS MEETING