

Fulton County Commission Recognizes Environmental Health Services for its Achievements

On March 2, 2011, Fulton County Commissioner Joan Garner, District 6, recognized the Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness Division of Environmental Health Services for their dedication to protect residents and visitors patronizing Fulton County eating establishments. In particular, Ms. Garner recognized the division for achieving federal standardization from the Food and Drug Administration in food service establishment inspection.

“We are pleased to recognize the Environmental Health Division who recently received a Certificate of Achievement from the US Department of Health and Human Services’ Public Health Branch of the Food and Drug Administration,” stated Joan Garner, Fulton County Commissioner, District 6. “The certificate was awarded for their outstanding commitment to food safety and their continuous improvement of their retail food regulatory program. ”

On February 24, 2011, Carline Richardson was the first employee to receive a Certificate of Achievement from the Food and Drug Administration for completing the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards course.

Environmental Health Services achieved compliance with Standard 7, Industry and Community Relations as part of the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards in December 2010. To achieve the standard, Environmental Health Services participated in an audit of the division’s educational activities, which included meetings, training seminars and classes attended. Ms. Richardson is now able to train and standardize all Environmental Health staff with responsibilities for inspections of food establishments in Fulton County.

The standardization process consisted of 45 hours of online instruction in topics ranging from microbiology to food borne illness investigation and eight joint inspections with a FDA retail food specialist. Once the entire Environmental Health inspections staff receives standardization, the County will achieve Standard 4, which is the Uniform Inspection program.

While, the State of Georgia has its own standardization program, and Fulton County meets those standards, achieving standardization by the FDA Office is an added feat based upon its level of rigor and prestige.

The county signed up to participate in the voluntary program in 2009. The National Retail Federal Food Safety Science Standards Program consists of nine standards that a food service establishment inspection regulatory program can achieve to become a program recognized by FDA. Fulton’s goal is to achieve all nine (9) standards within the next two (2) years.

For more information about Fulton County Health Services log-on to www.fultoncountyhealth.org or call (404) 730-1301.