

## AUGUSTA RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA

### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Richmond County, Georgia, desires to create the proper economic and social environment, to induce the investment of private resources in productive business enterprises, service enterprises, and encourage residential rehabilitation and new residential construction located in an area meeting criteria established under and set forth in Title 36, Chapter 88 et seq. and subsequently amended, known as the Enterprise Zone Employment Act of 1997 for the State of Georgia as set forth in Georgia Statutes Annotated, hereinafter referred to as the Act, and to provide employment to residents of such area;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY COMMISSION COMMISSIONERS OF AUGUSTA RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

### SECTION 1

In the geographic area known as the Harrisburg as herein described in Exhibit A (Sites 1-2) being hereafter referred to as the "Nominated Area"), a copy of which is attached hereto and hereby incorporated by reference, in compliance with OCGA 36-88-6 and as subsequently amended, the following findings of fact are made:

#### *(METES & BONDS)*

##### a.) Pervasive Poverty:

The Nominated Area suffers from pervasive poverty that is widespread throughout the nominated area and is evidenced and established by the following criteria:

1.) The Georgia Code requires that for parcels within the nominated area, the parcels must be within or adjacent to a census block group where the ratio of income to poverty level **for** at least 15 percent of the residents shall be less **than** 1.0. **The census block groups within the proposed area range from 49.6% to 63.3% of the residents below the poverty level.** This information was obtained from the 2020 Census of population and Housing.

##### b.) Unemployment:

The Georgia Code requires that the average rate unemployment for the nominated area for the preceding full calendar year be at least 10 percent higher **than** the state average for unemployment. The state rate of unemployment for **2021** was **3.5%** and the **2021** unemployment for the area was **23.7%**, approximately **16.52%** greater than the state average. This information was obtained from the Georgia Department of Labor for **2021** the most recent full year for which information is available.

c.) General Distress:

The Nominated Area suffers from general distress and adverse conditions as evidenced from the data collected, and such indicators of distress are outlined as followed: The Photographic Survey of the Nominated Area attached hereto as Exhibit B indicates that there are vacant, dilapidated, or deteriorating buildings that exist within the nominated area. Vacant and unused manufacturing space abounds in the nominated area. The Nominated Area, once primarily a center of textile manufacturing in nature, shows significant loss of business with a need for new employment opportunities to utilize the existing vacancies. Consequently, the area shows evidence of creeping blighted conditions that although scattered throughout the area, potentially pose a threat of further disinvestments creating a diminishing tax base within the area. Although most areas in the greater Central Savannah River Area (Augusta-Richmond County) region have increased in population, the population of the Distressed Sites and the surrounding area has declined by \_\_\_\_ percent.

## SECTION 2

Based upon the findings of fact set forth in Section 1 of this ordinance in addition to ample additional evidence, the Board of Commissioners finds the Nominated Area meets the qualifications of the Enterprise Zone Employment Act.

## SECTION 3

In order to alleviate the above conditions the Board of Commissioners hereby designates the Nominated Area described in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein, as an Enterprise Zone to be known as the "Harrisburg Enterprise Zone Development Area."

## SECTION 4

The Augusta Richmond County Commission shall be the authorized agency to act in all matters pertaining to the enterprise zones and reserves the power to grant the incentives listed below to qualifying businesses or qualifying service enterprises in accordance with the authorization granted local governments in the administration of the enterprise zone in the Enterprise Zone Employment Act.

## SECTION 5

The Augusta Richmond County Commission may grant incentives, as provided by OCGA 36-88-7 and 36-88-9 and as may be subsequently amended from time to time. Such incentives will be negotiated by the Commissioner on a case-by-case basis and may include, but not be limited to, exemptions from any or all of the following: a.) Occupation taxes; b.) Building Permit Fees; c.) Sign Permit Fees; d.) Business License Administrative Fee; e.) Rezoning Fees; f.) Engineering Fees; g.) State and municipal ad valorem taxes, excluding property taxes imposed by school districts; h.) Other local fees authorized by the Board of Commissioners, as may be applicable.

The Augusta Richmond County Commission may make determinations of eligibility for each business enterprise or service enterprise based on the quality and quantity of such additional economic stimulus as may be created within Augusta Richmond County, Georgia. Criteria for consideration may include but not be limited to the following: a.) The number of jobs to be created above the state threshold of five jobs. b.) Capital investment or reinvestment by the business equal to or greater than the amount of ad valorem tax abated over the first five years of the tax incentive; c.) Locating in a vacant or historic building; d.) Demolishing an obsolete, abandoned and/or deteriorating pre-existing structure; e.) Enhancing the area by incorporating elements such as significant landscaping, area compatible facade materials and exclusion of billboards on premises; f.) Assembling multiple tracts of land for one project; and g.) creating jobs for residents of the Enterprise Zone and surrounding area.

#### SECTION 7

The Augusta Richmond County Commission further directs and designates its (Name or Agency) as liaison for communication with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs; the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade, and Tourism; the business community; and all others to oversee enterprise zone activities and administration, and communication with qualified businesses, qualified service enterprises and qualifying residential developments as outlined in this ordinance.

#### SECTION 8

The Augusta Richmond County Commission has the power to administer, require, and enforce compliance with the provisions of the ordinance and such administrative rules or regulations adopted hereinafter by way of resolution including but not limited to reports and data information from businesses within the enterprise zone to verify compliance with this ordinance and state law.

#### SECTION 9

A qualifying business enterprise or service enterprise shall enter into a contractual agreement with the County setting forth the incentives offered to such entity and including the guidelines for the recapture, revocation, or reimbursement of the incentives should the terms of the contract be violated by the target business.

#### SECTION 10

This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

Read and passed this (date) of (month, year) **TBD**

Name, (Authorized Signatory of the Board of Commissioners)

Print Title:

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