

RESOLUTION 24-20

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DALTON, GEORGIA (the “CITY”) AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN AN AMICUS BRIEF IN THE CHANG V. CITY OF MILTON APPEAL

WHEREAS, there is presently pending before the Court of Appeals and/or Supreme Court of Georgia an appeal of a civil lawsuit that, at the trial court level, was referred to as Chang, et. al. v. City of Milton, State Court of Fulton County, Case No. 18EV004442;

WHEREAS, the case involves a claim of liability against the City of Milton for personal injuries due to a 2016 vehicle collision with a fixed obstruction (a masonry planter) located on City-owned right of way where the obstruction was outside the motoring lanes of travel;

WHEREAS, the masonry planter had been at the same location since 1992 and had never been the subject of a complaint or prior accident;

WHEREAS, at the trial court, the City of Milton was found to be partially at fault and a jury awarded money damages against the City of Milton of \$35,000,000.00;

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals affirmed the findings of the trial court, City of Milton v. Chang, et. al., 2024 WL 4195584 (Chang appellate ruling);

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals held that the “*planter...was a hazard for vehicles leaving the travel lanes*” and that its presence “*renders the use of these thoroughfares more hazardous;*”

WHEREAS, the CITY is concerned by the Court of Appeals’ decision finding that a municipality may be liable for fixed obstructions located outside the motoring lanes of travel where the obstruction had never been the subject of a prior collision or complaint;

WHEREAS, the CITY believes the Court of Appeals’ decision is inconsistent with existing legal precedent and should be overturned; and,

WHEREAS, the CITY believes the financial implications of the Court of Appeals decision could be devastating for Georgia municipalities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CITY does hereby authorize and ratify participation in an amicus brief before the Georgia Supreme Court asking that the Chang appellate ruling be taken by the Supreme Court and reversed. An amicus brief so tendered may include the CITY’s name as a participating party.

City of Dalton, Georgia

Mayor/Mayor Pro Tempore

Attested To:

City Clerk