

RESOLUTION NO. 22-08

RESOLUTION CENSURING COUNCIL MEMBER LATRESA AKINS-WELLS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, REPEALING INCONSISTENT RESOLUTIONS, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Forest Park (“City”) is a municipal corporation located within Clayton County, Georgia duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia and is charged with providing public services to residents located within the corporate limits of the City -Ward 4;

WHEREAS, Council Member Latresa Akins-Wells was elected to serve the citizens of the City;

WHEREAS, Mrs. Akins-Wells swore an oath, that among other things, she would perform the duties of the office of Council Member in the best interest of the City of Forest Park;

WHEREAS, the office of a City Council Member requires that such person meet and maintain the highest standards of behavior;

WHEREAS, an ethics complaint has been filed against Mrs. Akins-Wells;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Ethics Ordinance, an ethics officer (the “Ethics Officer”) conducted a hearing on February 3, 2022 to hear evidence on circumstances surrounding the complaint;

WHEREAS, a copy of the Ethics Officer’s report (the “Report”) is attached hereto as Exhibit A;

WHEREAS, a public hearing to receive the Ethics Officer’s Report was held before the Mayor and Council on March 7, 2022 at which time Mrs. Akins-Wells was afforded the opportunity to respond and defend herself with respect to the matters set forth in the Report;

WHEREAS, the Report determined Mrs. Akins-Wells violated Section 2-6-5(1) of the Ethics Ordinance which provides that “no city official shall use [her] position in such a manner as to threaten, intimidate or humiliate the public or city workforce”;

WHEREAS, the Ethics Officer’s determination was based upon a Facebook video which was published by Mrs. Akins-Wells on September 22, 2021 in which she leveled a number of accusations against the City staff and members of the City Council;

WHEREAS the City Council wishes to make clear that the Council does not condone nor accept Mrs. Akins-Wells’s behavior;

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that this resolution is necessary and beneficial to its citizens and to the proper use of City funds.

NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FOREST PARK HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. **Censure.** – Mrs. Akins-Wells is hereby formally censured for her unacceptable and inexcusable behavior. Mrs. Akins-Wells is called upon to cease the afore-mentioned behavior and to conduct herself in a manner fitting the office of City Council Member.

Section 2. **Approval of Execution** - The Mayor is hereby authorized to sign all documents and to perform all other acts necessary to effectuate this Resolution on behalf of the City of Forest Park. The City Clerk is authorized to execute, attest to, and seal any document which may be necessary to effectuate this Resolution, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

Section 3. **Severability** - To the extent any portion of this Resolution is declared to be invalid, unenforceable, or non-binding, that shall not affect the remaining portions of this Resolution.

Section 4. **Repeal of Conflicting Provisions** - All City resolutions inconsistent with this Resolution are hereby repealed.

Section 7. **Effective Date** - This Resolution shall be effective on the date of its approval by the City Council and Mayor as provided in the City Charter.

SO RESOLVED this 7th day of March, 2022.

Mayor Angelyne Butler

Council Member Kimberly James, Ward 1

Council Member Latresa Akins-Wells, Ward 2

Council Member Hector Gutierrez, Ward 3

Council Member Latresa Wells, Ward 4

Council Member Allan Mears, Ward 5

ATTEST:

City Clerk (SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney