

## **NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF CITY OF STONECREST**

The City of Stonecrest (“the City”) is notifying the public that at two regular meetings on August 25, 2025 at 6:00 pm and September 22, at 6:00 pm, the City will consider and vote on whether to approve a proposed ordinance to amend certain provisions of a local act of the General Assembly (Ga. L. 2016, p. 3538, as amended) pursuant to the City’s Home Rule authority under the Georgia Constitution. The Georgia Constitution empowers city governing authorities to amend or repeal local laws provided the local legislation does not address certain subject matters where home rule authority is preempted. A synopsis of the proposed ordinance is set forth below.

### **Title of Proposed Amendment:**

An Amendment to the Charter of the City of Stonecrest Regarding Hiring and Reporting Requirements of the Internal Auditor

### **Synopsis of Proposed Amendment:**

The City Council is considering amending Section 3.12 of the City Charter to enhance its ability to effectively audit city finances and ensure transparency and accountability. Currently, the Charter requires the appointment of an internal auditor to report on city expenditures at least quarterly, but mandates that the auditor must be a direct employee of the city. This restriction limits the Council’s flexibility in selecting the most effective means to carry out its financial oversight duties. The proposed amendment would allow the Council to hire an employee or an independent third party as internal auditor. It would also revise the reporting requirement from quarterly to at least bi-annually, while maintaining the scope of audit findings to include assessments of compliance with the Charter, the city’s budget, and applicable ordinances or policies. This change is authorized under the City’s home rule powers, as granted by Georgia Code § 36-35-3, and is intended to strengthen fiscal oversight and improve transparency for residents.

### **Full Text of the Amendment:**

Section 3.12 Internal Auditor-

“The city council shall appoint an internal auditor(s) to audit the financial records and expenditures of city funds and to report the results of such audits in writing to the city council at times and intervals set by the city council, but no less than bi-annually. Such audit reports shall, at a minimum, identify all city expenditures and other financial matters that the internal auditor either determines are not in compliance with or cannot conclusively be determined to be in compliance with:

- (1) The provisions of this Charter;
- (2) The applicable city budget; and

(3) Applicable ordinances, resolutions, policies, or other actions duly adopted or approved under the provisions of this Charter.

The internal auditor may be a direct employee of the city or a contractor.

### **Public Viewing and Inspection of the Ordinance**

A copy of the proposed ordinance is on file in the Office of the Clerk of the City of Stonecrest and the Office of the DeKalb County Clerk of Superior Court for the purpose of examination and inspection. The Clerk of the City of Stonecrest shall furnish anyone, upon written request, a copy of the ordinance containing the proposed amendment to SB 208. In addition, the ordinance and this synopsis are available for viewing on the City of Stonecrest website.

**{LEGAL NOTICE PUBLICATION DATES: July 31, 2025; August 7, 2025 and August 14, 2025}**