

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

**CITY OF STONECREST**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA TO EXTEND THE MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF NEW APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS LICENSES, LAND DISTURBANCE PERMITS, REZONINGS, SPECIAL LAND USE PERMITS, AND BUILDING APPLICATIONS FOR STORAGE UNIT FACILITIES FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED SIXTY (60) DAYS WHILE THE CITY OF STONECREST CONSIDERS CHANGES TO ITS ZONING ORDINANCE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE MORATORIUM, TO PROVIDE FOR FINDINGS OF FACT, IMPOSITION OF MORATORIUM, THE DURATION OF THE MORATORIUM; TO PROVIDE FOR AN APPEAL PROCESS; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR A PENALTY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RESOLUTION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Stonecrest (“City”) has been vested with substantial powers, rights and functions to generally regulate the practice, conduct or use of property for the purposes of maintaining health, morals, safety, security, peace, and the general welfare of the City of Stonecrest; and

**WHEREAS**, Georgia law recognizes that local governments may impose moratoria on zoning decisions, building permits, business licenses and other development approvals where exigent circumstances warrant the same, pursuant to case law found at *City of Roswell et al v. Outdoor Systems, Inc.*, 274 Ga. 130, 549 S.E.2d 90 (2001); and

**WHEREAS**, the Courts take judicial notice of a local government's inherent ability to impose moratoria on an emergency basis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Georgia Supreme Court, in the case of *DeKalb County v. Townsend*, 243 Ga. 80 (1979), held that, "To justify a moratorium, it must appear first, that the interests of the public generally, as distinguished from those of a particular class, require such interference; and second, that the means are reasonably necessary for the accomplishment of the purpose, and not unduly oppressive upon individuals." The City of Stonecrest has found that the interests of the public necessitate the enactment of a moratorium for health, safety, morals and general welfare purposes by means which are reasonable and not unduly oppressive; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Stonecrest have, as a part of planning, zoning and growth management, been in review of the City's Zoning Ordinances and have been studying the City's best estimates and projections of the type of development which could be anticipated within the City of Stonecrest; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council deem it important to direct economic development in a manner that is consistent with the current Comprehensive Plan which integrates all of these concerns and therefore consider this moratorium a proper exercise of its police powers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council therefore consider it paramount that land use regulation continue in the most orderly and predictable fashion with the least amount of disturbance to landowners and to the citizens of the City of Stonecrest. The Mayor and Council have always had a strong interest in growth management so as to promote the traditional police power goals of health, safety, morals, aesthetics and the general welfare of the community; in particular, the lessening of congestion on City streets, security of the public from crime and other dangers, promotion of health and general welfare of its citizens, protection of the aesthetic qualities

of the City including access to air and light, and facilitation of the adequate provision of transportation and other public requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the belief of the Mayor and Council of the City of Stonecrest that the concept of "public welfare" is broad and inclusive; that the values it represents are spiritual as well as physical, aesthetic as well as monetary; and that it is within the power of the City "to determine that a community should be beautiful as well as healthy, spacious as well as clean, well balanced as well as carefully patrolled," *Berman v. Parker*, 348 U.S. 26, 75 S.Ct. 98 (1954); *Kelo v. City of New London*, 545 U.S. 469, 125 S. Ct. 2655, 162 L. Ed. 2d 439 (2005). It is also the opinion of the City that "general welfare" includes the valid public objectives of aesthetics, conservation of the value of existing lands and buildings within the City, making the most appropriate use of resources, preserving neighborhood characteristics, enhancing and protecting the economic well-being of the community, facilitating adequate provision of public services, and the preservation of the resources of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council are, and have been interested in, developing a cohesive and coherent policy regarding certain uses and businesses in the City, and have intended to promote community development through stability, predictability and balanced growth that is in adherence to the City's Comprehensive Plan which will further the prosperity of the City as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Planning and Zoning, the City Engineer, the City selected stakeholders, and the City Attorney are reviewing the City's Zoning Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the citizens of Stonecrest to place a moratorium on the application of business licenses, land disturbance permits, rezonings, special land use permits, and building applications for storage unit facilities until review is completed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council approved a sixty (60) day moratorium on January 31, 2023 ending on April 1, 2023 for the application of business licenses, land disturbance permits, rezonings, special land use permits, and building applications for storage unit facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the moratorium ending on April 1, 2023 was extended for an additional sixty (60) day period ending on May 31, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council desire to extend the moratorium ending on May 31, 2023 for an additional sixty (60) day period that will end on July 30, 2023 to continue developing cohesive and coherent policy regarding certain uses and businesses in the City.

**THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STONECREST** and by the authority of the same:

#### **SECTION I.**

#### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Mayor and Council of the City of Stonecrest hereby make the following findings of fact:

- (a) It appears that the City's Zoning requires additional review by the City of Stonecrest as it relates to certain zoning uses permitted throughout the City.
- (b) Substantial disorder, detriment and irreparable harm would result to the citizens, businesses and City of Stonecrest if the current land use regulation scheme in and for the above described uses in the City were to be utilized by property owners prior to a more thorough review;
- (c) The City's ongoing revision of its code and zoning ordinances requires that a limited cessation of the application of business licenses, land disturbance permits,

rezonings, special land use permits, and building applications for storage unit facilities be enacted;

- (d) It is necessary and in the public interest to delay, for a reasonable period of time, the processing of any the application of business licenses, land disturbance permits, rezonings, special land use permits, and building applications for storage unit facilities to ensure that the design, development and location of the same are consistent with the long-term planning objectives of the City; and
- (e) That the Georgia Supreme Court has ruled that limited moratoria are reasonable and do not constitute land use when such moratoria are applied throughout the City under *City of Roswell et al v. Outdoor Systems Inc.*, 274 Ga. 130, 549 S.E.2d 90 (2001).

## **SECTION II.**

### **IMPOSITION OF MORATORIUM**

- (a) There is hereby imposed an extension on the moratorium on the acceptance by the staff of the City of Stonecrest of any the application of business licenses, land disturbance permits, rezonings, special land use permits, and building applications for storage unit facilities.
- (b) That the moratorium adopted on March 27, 2023 will end on May 31, 2023. This moratorium shall extend the moratorium for a period of sixty (60) days and will end on July 30, 2023.
- (c) This moratorium shall have no effect upon approvals or permits previously issued or applications for application of business licenses, land disturbance permits, rezonings, special land use permits, and building applications for storage unit facilities submitted prior to the adoption of the Moratorium on January 31, 2023. The provisions of this Resolution

shall not affect the issuance of application of business licenses, land disturbance permits, rezonings, special land use permits, and building applications for storage unit facilities that have received preliminary or final approval by the City on or before the effective date of the Moratorium adopted on January 31, 2023.

(d) As of the effective date of this Resolution, no applications for business licenses, land disturbance permits, rezonings, special land use permits, and building applications for storage unit facilities shall be accepted by any agent, employee or officer of the City with respect to any property in the City of Stonecrest for a sixty (60) day period beginning May 31, 2023 ending July 30, 2023, and any of the aforementioned so accepted for filing will be deemed in error, null and void, and of no effect whatsoever, and shall constitute no assurance whatsoever of any right to engage in any act, and any action in reliance on any such license or permit shall be unreasonable.

(e) The following procedures shall be put in place immediately. Under *Cannon v. Clayton County*, 255 Ga. 63, 335 S.E.2d 294 (1985); *Meeks v. City of Buford*, 275 Ga. 585, 571 S.E.2d 369 (2002); and *City of Duluth v. Riverbroke Props.*, 233 Ga. App. 46, 502 S.E.2d 806 (1998), the Supreme Court stated, "Where a landowner makes a substantial change in position by expenditures and reliance on the probability of the issuance of a building permit, based upon an existing zoning ordinance and the assurances of zoning officials, he acquires vested rights and is entitled to have the permit issued despite a change in the zoning ordinance which would otherwise preclude the issuance of a permit." Pursuant to this case, the City of Stonecrest recognizes that, unknown to the City, de facto vesting may have occurred. The following procedures are established to provide exemptions from the moratorium where vesting has occurred:

A written application, including verified supporting data, documents and facts, may be made requesting a review by the Mayor and Council at a scheduled meeting of any facts or circumstances which the applicant feels substantiates a claim for vesting and the grant of an exemption.

### **SECTION III.**

(a) It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Mayor and Council that all sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Resolution are and were, upon their enactment, believed by the Mayor and Council to be fully valid, enforceable and constitutional.

(b) It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Mayor and Council that, to the greatest extent allowed by law, each and every section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Chapter is severable from every other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution. It is hereby further declared to be the intention of the Mayor and Council that, to the greatest extent allowed by law, no section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution is mutually dependent upon any other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance.

(c) In the event that any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Resolution shall, for any reason whatsoever, be declared invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, it is the express intent of the Mayor and Council that such invalidity, unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall, to the greatest extent allowed by law, not render invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or sections of the Resolution and that, to the greatest extent allowed by law, all remaining phrases,

clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of the Resolution shall remain valid, constitutional, enforceable, and of full force and effect.

**SECTION IV.**

All Resolution or parts of Resolution in conflict with this Resolution are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

**SECTION V.**

The preamble of this Resolution shall be considered to be and is hereby incorporated by reference, as if fully set out herein.

**SO RESOLVED AND EFFECTIVE** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

**[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]**

**CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jazzmin Cobble, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**City Clerk**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM BY:**



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**City Attorney**