

AN ORDINANCE BY COUNCILMEMBERS FELICIA A. MOORE AND MARY NORWOOD AS SUBSTITUTED AND AMENDED BY FINANCE/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION), ARTICLE IX (FINANCE), DIVISION 2 (APPROPRIATIONS AND RELATED MATTERS), SECTIONS 2-946 TO CREATE A NEW SECTION ENTITLED “PUBLIC ACCESS TO FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES” TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCESS TO ALL CITY FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES THROUGH THE CITY’S WEBSITE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.(AMENDED AND HELD 12/16/15) (HELD AT THE REQUEST OF THE AUTHOR OF THE PAPER)

WHEREAS, the members of the Atlanta City Council (“the Council”) have a fiduciary duty to act solely for the benefit of the City of Atlanta and its residents; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 1-103 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances, “all legislative powers of the City are vested in the Council, except those powers specifically reserved in the Charter to the electors of the City; and

WHEREAS, some of the powers vested in the council include, but are not limited to: the power to levy, assess, and provide for the collection of all taxes and fees, the power to grant and authorize city contracts, the power to approve expenditures of the City and the power to obligate portions of City funds for designated purposes; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the aforementioned powers, the council votes on all matters having significant financial impact or implication to the City of Atlanta and its residents; and

WHEREAS, as taxpayers, the residents of the City of Atlanta also has a right to know how their tax dollars are being spent; the ability to see how government uses public dollars is fundamental to democracy; and

WHEREAS, in order for the City Council to completely fulfill its fiduciary duty to the City and to make informed decisions regarding the City’s finances, it is necessary for the Council to have access to all of the City’s financial expenditures; and

WHEREAS, similarly, in order for the residents of the City of Atlanta to monitor how their tax dollars are being spent and to ensure accountability, it is also necessary for the public to have access to all of the City’s expenditures; and

WHEREAS, currently, the City of Atlanta does not have a mechanism that allows residents to electronically view the City’s financial expenditures; and

WHEREAS, to obtain access the City's financial information, the City Council must submit requests to the Chief Financial Officer and or the Administration and residents must submit an Open Records Request and pay associated fees with the request; and

WHEREAS, this process is not always the most efficient, transparent and timely way to obtain the requested information; and

WHEREAS, transparency in government spending checks against corruption, bolsters public confidence, improves responsiveness, and promotes a greater effectiveness and fiscal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, many industry leading municipalities such as; New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco Austin, and Denver have all made serious strides towards complete transparency with regard to City accounts payables and receivables; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Public Interest Research Group (U.S.PIRG) Education Fund, a 501(c) organization that works to promote consumer and promote good government, governments who provide transparency websites reduce abuse or waste because government officials and contractors know the public will be looking over their shoulders; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, the U.S.PIRG Educational Fund studied and rated America's 30 largest cities towards "Transparency 2.0" a standard of encompassing one-stop, one-click budget accountability and accessibility; and

WHEREAS, the U.S.PIRG Educational Fund Transparency Study gave the City of Atlanta an "F" grade, citing that the City of Atlanta provides very little financial information beyond the data on the budget and the CAFR, which keeps citizens in the dark on which companies and non-profits receive taxpayer funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta would also like to move towards a more transparent process with regard to its financial expenditures by incorporating viewable, searchable and downloadable checkbook level spending data, on the City's website and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City to provide access to the City's expenditures to the public, by providing regularly updated financial expenditures on the City of Atlanta's website.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, as follows:

SECTION 1: That the City of Atlanta shall provide checkbook level access of all City expenditures to the public, by uploading the financial expenditures to the City of Atlanta's website.

SECTION 2: That the City's financial expenditures will be uploaded and updated by the Department of Finance on a regular basis. The Department of Finance shall make the City's financial expenditures accessible on the City of Atlanta's website no later than fourteen (14) days after an expenditure is paid or a revenue is collected.

SECTION 3: The City's financial expenditures shall be uploaded to a platform that will allow the information to be viewable, searchable and downloadable by the public to allow individuals to conduct detailed off-line analyses of the City's expenditures.

SECTION 4: Within 30 days of adoption of this Ordinance, the Atlanta Information Management Department, the Department of Finance and the Department of Human Resources must present a report to the Finance/Executive Committee of the mechanism that will be used to collect, upload and update to the City's website to provide the financial expenditures.

SECTION 5: That Chapter 2, Article IX, Division 2, Section 2-946 is hereby amended to read as follows

Sec. 2-946. - Public Access to Financial Transactions

- (a) All financial expenditures shall be made available to the public through the City's website.
- (b) The financial expenditures shall be uploaded to the City's website in a manner that allows the public to view, search, sort and download the information from the website, free of charge.
- (c) All financial transactions shall be uploaded to the website and updated on a regular basis. All financial transactions shall be made available on the City's website no later than fourteen (14) days from the date the expenditure was paid.

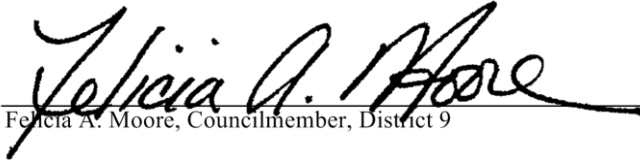
SECTION 6: That access to the City's expenditures will be city-wide, across all funds in the City's Charter of Accounts where the City makes expenditures.

SECTION 7: That all ordinances and part of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby waived to the extent of the conflict.

CITY COUNCIL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

15-O-1585

SPONSOR SIGNATURES


Felicia A. Moore, Councilmember, District 9


Mary Norwood, Councilmember, Post 2 At-Large


Andre Dickens, Councilmember, Post 3 At-Large

**CITY COUNCIL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

15-O-1585

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Workflow List:

Clerk of Council	Completed	12/09/2015 10:48 AM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	12/07/2015 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	01/13/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	01/19/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	01/27/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	02/01/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	02/10/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	02/15/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	02/24/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	03/07/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	03/16/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	03/21/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	03/30/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	04/18/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	04/27/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	05/02/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	05/11/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	05/16/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	05/25/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	06/06/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	06/15/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	06/20/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	06/29/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	07/05/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	07/13/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	07/18/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	07/27/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	08/15/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	08/24/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	09/06/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	09/14/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	09/14/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	09/14/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	09/19/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	09/28/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	10/03/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	10/12/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	10/17/2016 1:00 PM

Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	10/26/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	11/07/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	11/16/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	11/16/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	11/16/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	01/04/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Completed	01/13/2016 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	11/21/2016 1:00 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Pending	11/30/2016 1:00 PM
Mayor's Office	Pending	

HISTORY:

12/07/15 Atlanta City Council REFERRED WITHOUT OBJECTION

RESULT:	REFERRED WITHOUT OBJECTION	Next: 1/13/2016 1:00 PM
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12/16/15 Finance/Executive Committee HELD IN COMMITTEE

RESULT:	HELD IN COMMITTEE	Next: 1/4/2016 1:00 PM
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01/04/16 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RESULT:	RETURNED AS HELD	Next: 1/13/2016 1:00 PM
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01/13/16 Finance/Executive Committee HELD IN COMMITTEE

RESULT:	HELD IN COMMITTEE	Next: 1/19/2016 1:00 PM
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01/19/16 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RESULT:	RETURNED AS HELD	Next: 1/27/2016 1:00 PM
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01/27/16 Finance/Executive Committee

02/01/16 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RESULT:	RETURNED AS HELD	Next: 2/10/2016 1:00 PM
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02/10/16 Finance/Executive Committee

02/15/16 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RESULT:	RETURNED AS HELD	Next: 2/24/2016 1:00 PM
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02/24/16 Finance/Executive Committee

03/07/16 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RESULT:	RETURNED AS HELD	Next: 3/16/2016 1:00 PM
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03/16/16 Finance/Executive Committee

03/21/16 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RESULT:	RETURNED AS HELD	Next: 3/30/2016 1:00 PM
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03/30/16 Finance/Executive Committee

04/18/16 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RESULT: RETURNED AS HELD Next: 4/27/2016 1:00 PM

04/27/16 Finance/Executive Committee

05/02/16 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RESULT: RETURNED AS HELD Next: 5/11/2016 1:00 PM

05/11/16 Finance/Executive Committee

05/16/16 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RESULT: RETURNED AS HELD Next: 5/25/2016 1:00 PM

05/25/16 Finance/Executive Committee

06/06/16 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RESULT: RETURNED AS HELD Next: 6/15/2016 1:00 PM

06/15/16 Finance/Executive Committee

06/20/16 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RESULT: RETURNED AS HELD Next: 6/29/2016 1:00 PM

06/29/16 Finance/Executive Committee

07/05/16 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RESULT: RETURNED AS HELD Next: 7/13/2016 1:00 PM

07/13/16 Finance/Executive Committee

07/18/16 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RESULT: RETURNED AS HELD Next: 7/27/2016 1:00 PM

07/27/16 Finance/Executive Committee

08/15/16 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RESULT: RETURNED AS HELD Next: 8/24/2016 1:00 PM

08/24/16 Finance/Executive Committee

09/06/16 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RESULT: RETURNED AS HELD Next: 9/14/2016 1:00 PM

09/14/16 Finance/Executive Committee

09/19/16 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RESULT: RETURNED AS HELD Next: 9/28/2016 1:00 PM

09/28/16 Finance/Executive Committee

10/03/16 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RESULT:	RETURNED AS HELD	Next: 10/12/2016 1:00 PM
10/12/16	Finance/Executive Committee	HELD IN COMMITTEE
RESULT:	HELD IN COMMITTEE [6 TO 0]	Next: 10/17/2016 1:00 PM
AYES:	Wan, Shook, Adrean, Martin, Moore, Dickens	
AWAY:	Natalyn Mosby Archibong	
10/17/16	Atlanta City Council	RETURNED AS HELD
RESULT:	RETURNED AS HELD	Next: 10/26/2016 1:00 PM
10/26/16	Finance/Executive Committee	HELD IN COMMITTEE
RESULT:	HELD IN COMMITTEE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 11/7/2016 1:00 PM
AYES:	Wan, Shook, Adrean, Archibong, Martin, Moore	
ABSENT:	Andre Dickens	
11/07/16	Atlanta City Council	RETURNED AS HELD
RESULT:	RETURNED AS HELD	Next: 11/16/2016 1:00 PM
11/16/16	Finance/Executive Committee	HELD IN COMMITTEE
RESULT:	HELD IN COMMITTEE [UNANIMOUS]	
MOVER:	Felicia A. Moore, Councilmember, District 9	
SECONDER:	Howard Shook, Vice Chair	
AYES:	Wan, Shook, Archibong, Martin, Moore, Dickens	
ABSENT:	Yolanda Adrean	
RESULT:	RETURNED AS HELD	Next: 11/30/2016 1:00 PM

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VOTE RECORD - ORDINANCE 15-O-1585					
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<input type="checkbox"/> SECOND READING					
<input type="checkbox"/> THIRD READING					
<input type="checkbox"/> FOURTH READING					
<input type="checkbox"/> FIFTH READING					
<input type="checkbox"/> REFERRED TO COMMITTEE					
<input type="checkbox"/> HELD IN COMMITTEE					
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<input type="checkbox"/> FORWARDED TO FC/NQ					
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<input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE/SUB/AMENDED					
<input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE/SUB/AMND/COND					
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	MARY NORWOOD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ANDRE DICKENS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	CARLA SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	CLARENCE "C. T." MARTIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	JOYCE SHEPERD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Certified by Presiding Officer	Certified by Clerk
<p>Mayor's Action</p> <p><i>See Authentication Page Attachment</i></p>	