

# In Celebration of the Southern Center for Human Rights 40 Years of Advocacy

- Whereas,** *The City of Atlanta is pleased to honor the Southern Center for Human Rights as it celebrates forty years of service to the community; and*
- Whereas,** *The Southern Center for Human Rights (SCHR) was founded in 1976 by ministers and activists concerned about criminal justice issues in response to the Supreme Court's reinstatement of the death penalty that year and to the horrendous conditions in Southern prisons and jails; and*
- Whereas,** *Originally named the Southern Prisoners Defense Committee, the organization's attorneys and investigators struggled alongside civil rights organizations, families, and faith-based organizations to protect the civil and human rights of people of color, the poor, and other disadvantaged people facing the death penalty or confined to prisons and jails in the South; and*
- Whereas,** *In addition to providing representation to people facing the death penalty, the SCHR employs class action lawsuits and individual representation in challenging unconstitutional and unconscionable practices within the criminal justice system; and*
- Whereas,** *The SCHR engages in public education and joint efforts with other organizations and individuals to oppose the death penalty and overcrowding of prisons and jails and advocate for effective representation for poor people accused of crimes, just and humane sentencing policies and the fair, equal, and humane treatment of all people who come into the criminal justice system.*

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved that We,** *the members of the Atlanta City Council and on behalf of the citizens of Atlanta, hereby congratulate the Southern Center for Human Rights on this sixteenth day of May 2016 as it celebrates its fortieth anniversary.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE HAVE  
HEREUNTO SET OUR HANDS AND  
CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY  
OF ATLANTA TO BE AFFIXED

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Ceasar C. Mitchell  
President, Atlanta City Council

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Carla Smith  
Council District 1

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Kwanza Hall  
Council District 2

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Ivory Lee Young, Jr.  
Council District 3

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Cleta Winslow  
Council District 4

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Natalyn Mosby Archibong  
Council District 5

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Alex Wan  
Council District 6

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Howard Shook  
Council District 7

\_\_\_\_\_  
Yolanda Adrean  
Council District 8

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Felicia A. Moore  
Council District 9

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C.T. Martin  
Council District 10

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Keisha Lance Bottoms  
Council District 11

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joyce M. Sheperd  
Council District 12

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Michael Julian Bond  
Post 1 At-Large

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Mary Norwood  
Post 2 At-Large

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Andre Dickens  
Post 3 At-Large