

**AN ORDINANCE  
BY COUNCILMEMBERS FELICIA A. MOORE AND MARY NORWOOD  
AS AMENDED BY FINANCE/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 50-35, AND 1-103 OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA CODE OF ORDINANCES, SO AS TO CREATE NEW SUBSECTIONS RELATING TO VIEW-ONLY ACCESS OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION BY MEMBERS OF THE ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL AND THE PUBLIC; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**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**, in order for the council to completely fulfill its fiduciary duty to the City and to make informed decisions, it is necessary for the council to have access to all of the City’s financial information; and

**WHEREAS**, as tax payers, it is also necessary for the residents of the City of Atlanta to have access to all of the City’s financial information, in order to monitor tax dollars and accountability purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, currently, to obtain the City’s financial information, the Council must submit requests to the Chief Financial Officer and or the Administration; and

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the City of Atlanta would also like to move towards a more transparent process with regard to its financial information; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the City of Atlanta for all of the members of the Atlanta City Council and the public to have access to the same financial information, but in a view-only capacity, that is provided to the Mayor and the Chief Financial Officer; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the Council's desire to make view-only access to the City's financial information, including accounts payable and receivables to the public, in order to know what funds are being deposited and disbursed to and from the City and to completely fulfill its fiduciary duties to the City of Atlanta.

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

**SECTION 1:** That the Mayor or his designee is authorized to grant members of the Atlanta City Council and the public view-only access to the City's financial records and information.

**SECTION 2:** Section 50-34 of Article II of Chapter 50 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances which now reads as follows:

**Sec. 50-34. – Budget, financial records**

- (a) The director of emergency management shall be the chief executive officer and responsible administrator of the office of emergency management.
- (b) The director of emergency management shall prepare all budgets to meet operating and administrative expenses and shall operate the office of emergency management in accordance with the approved budget appropriations of the city and Fulton County to include anticipated federal matching funds, as projected by state emergency management division, department of public defense, with staff pay based upon an approved emergency management staffing pattern and pay scales of the state merit system.
- (c) Financial records, personnel and administration records and such other records as are desired shall be subject to audit at any time by designated city and/or county officials. An annual audit of the financial records shall be conducted by the city and/or county.

**is hereby amended so that it shall read as follows:**

- (a) The director of emergency management shall be the chief executive officer and responsible administrator of the office of emergency management.
- (b) The director of emergency management shall prepare all budgets to meet operating and administrative expenses and shall operate the office of emergency management in accordance with the approved budget appropriations of the city and Fulton County to include anticipated federal matching funds, as projected by state emergency management division, department of public defense, with staff pay

based upon an approved emergency management staffing pattern and pay scales of the state merit system.

- (c) Financial records, personnel and administration records and such other records as are desired shall be subject to audit at any time by designated city and/or county officials. An annual audit of the financial records shall be conducted by the city and/or county.
- (d) All accounts payable and receivables and checks disbursed having any financial impact or implication to the City of Atlanta shall be made available to the public on the City Council website.**

**SECTION 3:** Part 1, Subpart A, Article I, Section 1-103 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances which now reads as follows:

**Sec. 1-103. – Legislative powers.**

- (a) All legislative powers of the city are hereby vested in the council (hereinafter at times referred to as the "governing body"), except those powers specifically reserved in this Charter to the electors of the city. The power to levy, assess, and provide for the collection of all taxes and fees authorized to be levied, assessed, and collected by the city by general law and this Charter shall be vested in the council.
- (b) The council shall adopt and provide for the execution of such ordinances, resolutions and rules, not inconsistent with this Charter as shall be necessary or proper for the purpose of carrying into effect the powers and duties conferred by this Charter and may enforce all ordinances by imposing penalties and fines for the violation thereof not to exceed a \$1000 fine or six months' imprisonment, or both.

**is hereby amended so that it shall read as follows:**

**Sec. 1-103. – Legislative powers.**

- (a) All legislative powers of the city are hereby vested in the council (hereinafter at times referred to as the "governing body"), except those powers specifically reserved in this Charter to the electors of the city. The power to levy, assess, and provide for the collection of all taxes and fees authorized to be levied, assessed, and collected by the city by general law and this Charter shall be vested in the council.
- (b) The council shall adopt and provide for the execution of such ordinances, resolutions and rules, not inconsistent with this Charter as shall be necessary or proper for the purpose of carrying into effect the powers and duties conferred by this Charter and may enforce all ordinances by imposing penalties and fines for the violation thereof not to exceed a \$1000 fine or six months' imprisonment, or both.

**(c) The Council and the public shall have access to all accounts payables and receivables and checks disbursed in order to carry out the powers designated to the Council and having any financial impact or implication to the city.**

**SECTION 4:** That all ordinances and part of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby waived to the extent of the conflict.