

A RESOLUTION

BY

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City Council

A RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE THE GOVERNOR AND THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DECLARE A MORATORIUM ON EXECUTIONS; TO SUPPORT THE GEORGIA COALITION FOR THE PEOPLE'S AGENDA TO DO A STUDY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, there is a growing concern throughout the nation about justice, fairness, effectiveness and the humaneness of the death penalty; and

WHEREAS, there has been concern raised by some elected officials about the constitutionality and humaneness of execution in the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, recent experience with capital punishment has been marred by examples of inadequate representation ranging from virtually no representation by counsel, to representation by inexperienced counsel, to failure to investigate basic threshold questions, to lack of knowledge of governing law, to lack of advocacy on the issue of guilt, to failure to present a case for life at the penalty phase; and

WHEREAS, there have been examples of persons condemned to die by the Georgia court system who were innocent and released, and persons condemned to die who are mentally ill; and

WHEREAS, there is racial disparity in the number of minorities on death row, in the number of state trial court judges and in the number of prosecutors; and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta City Council supports the Georgia Coalition For the People's Agenda in requesting that the Governor and the Georgia General Assembly declare a moratorium on the death penalty while they study the issues and factors that would enable them to establish a system that eliminates the obvious disparities, injustices, inequities and weaknesses in the system;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES that it encourages the Governor and the Georgia General Assembly to declare a moratorium on the death penalty and supports the Georgia Coalition For The People's Agenda in studying the system to encourage fairness, justice and humaneness.