A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DESIGNATING THE MAGISTRATE COURT AS THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S DESIGNEE AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE CERTAIN DOCUMENTATION UNDER THE GEORGIA SQUATTER REFORM ACT PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS on April 24, 2024, the Governor signed into law H.B. 1017, known as the "Georgia Squatter Reform Act" ("the Act"), which became effective that day;

WHEREAS the Act created a separate criminal offense of unlawful squatting and requires that any person who commits or is accused of committing the offense of unlawful squatting receive a citation advising that he or she must present to the head of the issuing law enforcement agency or his or her designee, within three business days, properly executed documentation that authorizes the person's entry on such land or premises;

WHEREAS if such person provides such documentation, a hearing shall be set within seven days of the submission of such documentation but each law enforcement agency within the bounds of Cobb County has a different jurisdictional authority;

WHEREAS it is in the public interest to streamline the process required by law and designate the Magistrate Court of Cobb County as the Powder Springs Police Department's designee for receiving any documentation allowable in O.C.G.A. 16-7-21.1 (a)(2).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Council for the City of Powder Springs that it authorizes and approves the Chief of Police to execute the attached Memorandum of Understanding designating the Magistrate Court of Cobb County as the designee for the City authorized to receive documentation allowable in OCGA 16-7-21.1(a)(2).

SO RESOLVED AND EFFECTIVE this 19th day of August 2024.

Albert Thurman, Mayor

Henry Lust, Council Member

Doris Dawkins, Council Member

Dwayne Green, Council Member

Dwight McMutry Chuncil Member

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Patricia Wisdom, Council Member

Kelly Axt, City Clerk