

House Bill 574

By: Representatives Wilkinson of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Willard of the 44<sup>th</sup>, Millar of the 59<sup>th</sup>, Campbell of the 42<sup>nd</sup> and Irvin of the 45<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To incorporate the City of Sandy Springs in Fulton County; to provide for a charter for the  
2 City of Sandy Springs; to provide for incorporation, boundaries, and powers of the city; to  
3 provide for general powers and limitations on powers; to provide for a governing authority  
4 of such city and the powers, duties, authority, election, terms, method of filling vacancies,  
5 compensation, qualifications, prohibitions, districts, and removal from office relative to  
6 members of such governing authority; to provide for inquiries and investigations; to provide  
7 for organization and procedures; to provide for ordinances and codes; to provide for the  
8 office of mayor and certain duties and powers relative to the office of mayor; to provide for  
9 administrative responsibilities; to provide for boards, commissions, and authorities; to  
10 provide for a city manager, a city attorney, a city clerk, a tax collector, a city accountant, and  
11 other personnel; to provide for personnel rules and regulations; to provide for a municipal  
12 court and the judge or judges thereof; to provide for practices and procedures; to provide for  
13 ethics and disclosures; to provide for taxation and fees; to provide for franchises, service  
14 charges, and assessments; to provide for bonded and other indebtedness; to provide for  
15 accounting and budgeting; to provide for purchases; to provide for homestead exemptions;  
16 to provide for the sale of property; to provide for bonds for officials; to provide for eminent  
17 domain; to provide for penalties; to provide for other matters relative to the foregoing; to  
18 provide for a referendum; to provide effective dates; to provide for severability; to repeal  
19 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

21 ARTICLE I  
22 CREATION, INCORPORATION, POWERS

**SECTION 1.01.**

## Incorporation.

This Act shall constitute the charter of the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia. The City of Sandy Springs, Georgia, in the County of Fulton, and the inhabitants thereof, are constituted and declared a body politic and corporate under the same name and style of the "City of Sandy Springs" and by that name shall have perpetual succession, may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in all the courts of law and equity, and in all actions whatsoever, and may have and use a common seal.

**SECTION 1.02.**

## Corporate Boundaries.

The boundaries of the City of Sandy Springs shall be as set forth and described in Exhibit A of this charter, and said Exhibit A is incorporated into and made a part of this charter. The city manager shall maintain a current map and written legal description of the corporate boundaries of the city, and such map and description shall incorporate any changes which may hereafter be made in such corporate boundaries.

**SECTION 1.03.**

## Specific Powers.

(a) The corporate powers of the government of the City of Sandy Springs, to be exercised by the governing authority, shall include the following:

(1) To levy and to provide for the valuation and revaluation of all property subject to taxation, and collection of taxes on the same;

(2) To levy and to provide for the collection of license fees and taxes on privileges, occupations, trades, and professions; to license and regulate such privileges, occupations, trades, and professions; and to provide for the manner and method of payment of such licenses and taxes;

(3) To make appropriations for the support of the government of the city; to authorize the expenditure of money for any purposes authorized by this charter and for any purpose for which a municipality is authorized by the laws of the State of Georgia; and to provide for the payment of expenses of the city;

(4) To appropriate and borrow money for the payment of debts of the city and to issue bonds for the purpose of raising revenue to carry out any project, program, or venture authorized by this charter or the laws of the State of Georgia;

1 (5) To acquire, dispose of, and hold in trust or otherwise, any real, personal, or mixed  
2 property, in fee simple or lesser interest, inside or outside the corporate limits of the  
3 city;

4 (6) To accept or refuse gifts, donations, bequests, or grants from any source for any  
5 purpose related to the powers and duties of the city and the general welfare of its  
6 citizens on such terms and conditions as the donor or grantor may impose;

7 (7) To condemn property, inside or outside the corporate limits of the city, for present  
8 or future use, and for any corporate purpose deemed necessary by the governing  
9 authority, utilizing procedures enumerated in Title 22 of the O.C.G.A. or such other  
10 laws as are or may hereafter be enacted;

11 (8) To acquire, lease, construct, operate, maintain, sell, and dispose of public utilities,  
12 including, but not limited to, a system of waterworks, sewers and drains, sewage  
13 disposal, gas works, electric light plants, transportation facilities, public airports, and  
14 any other public utility; and to fix the taxes, charges, rates, fares, fees, assessments,  
15 regulations, and penalties therefor; and to provide for the withdrawal of service for  
16 refusal or failure to pay same and the manner in which such remedies shall be  
17 enforced;

18 (9) To grant franchises or make contracts for public utilities and public services, not  
19 to exceed periods of ten years; to prescribe the rates, fares, regulations, standards, and  
20 conditions of service applicable to the service to be provided by the franchise grantee  
21 or contractor, insofar as not in conflict with such regulations by the Public Service  
22 Commission;

23 (10) To lay out, open, extend, widen, narrow, establish, change the grade of,  
24 abandon, close, construct, pave, curb, gutter, adorn with shade trees, otherwise  
25 improve, maintain, repair, clean, prevent erosion of, and light roads, alleys, and  
26 walkways within the corporate limits of the city;

27 (11) To grant franchises and rights of way throughout the streets and roads and over  
28 the bridges and viaducts, for the use of public utilities;

29 (12) To provide for the acquisition, construction, building, operation, and  
30 maintenance of public ways, parks and playgrounds, recreational facilities,  
31 cemeteries, markets and market houses, parking facilities, public buildings, libraries,  
32 sewers, drains, sewerage systems, airports, hospitals, housing, and charitable, cultural,  
33 educational, recreational, conservation, sport, curative, corrective, detentional, penal,  
34 and medical institutions, agencies, and facilities; to provide any other public  
35 improvements inside or outside the corporate limits of the city; to regulate the use of  
36 public improvements; and, for such purposes, property may be acquired by

1 condemnation under Title 22 of the O.C.G.A. or such other applicable laws as are or  
2 may hereafter be enacted;

3 (13) To require real estate owners to repair and maintain in a safe condition the  
4 sidewalks adjoining their lots or lands; and to enact ordinances establishing the terms  
5 and conditions under which such repairs and maintenance shall be effected, including  
6 the penalties to be imposed for failure to do so;

7 (14) To regulate the erection and construction of buildings and all other structures;  
8 to adopt building, housing, plumbing, electrical, gas, and heating and air-conditioning  
9 codes; to regulate all housing, building, and building trades; to license all building  
10 trades; to license the construction and erection of buildings and all other structures;

11 (15) To provide for the prevention and punishment of drunkenness, riots, and public  
12 disturbances;

13 (16) To regulate junk dealers, pawn shops, the manufacture, sale, or transportation  
14 of intoxicating liquors; to regulate the transportation, storage, and use of combustible,  
15 explosive, and inflammable materials; and to regulate the use of lighting and heating  
16 equipment, and any other business or situation which may be dangerous to persons  
17 or property;

18 (17) To regulate the conduct of peddlers and itinerant traders, theatrical  
19 performances, exhibitions, and shows of any kind, by taxation or otherwise;

20 (18) To license, tax, and regulate professional fortunetelling or palmistry;

21 (19) To regulate the erection, removal, and maintenance of signs, billboards, trees,  
22 shrubs, fences, buildings, and any and all other structures or obstructions upon or  
23 adjacent to the rights of way of streets and roads, inside or abutting the corporate  
24 limits of the city and to prescribe penalties and punishment for violation of such  
25 ordinances;

26 (20) To prescribe standards of public health and sanitation and to provide for the  
27 enforcement of such standards;

28 (21) To regulate the emission of smoke or other exhaust which pollutes the air and  
29 to prevent the pollution of natural streams which flow within the corporate limits of  
30 the city;

31 (22) To fix and establish fire limits, and, from time to time, extend, enlarge, or  
32 restrict same; to prescribe fire safety regulations not inconsistent with general law,  
33 relating to both fire prevention and detection and to fire fighting, and to prescribe  
34 penalties and punishment for violation thereof;

35 (23) To provide for the destruction and removal of any building or other structure  
36 which is dangerous to the public;

1 (24) To provide for the collection and disposal of garbage, rubbish, and refuse; to  
2 regulate the collection and disposal of garbage, rubbish, and refuse by others; to  
3 provide for the separate collection of glass, tin, aluminum, cardboard, paper, and other  
4 recyclable materials and to provide for the sale of such items;

5 (25) To levy, fix, assess, and collect a garbage, refuse, and trash collection and  
6 disposal, and other sanitary service charge, tax, or fee, for such services as may be  
7 necessary in the operation of the city, from all individuals, firms, and corporations  
8 residing in or doing business therein benefiting from such services; to enforce the  
9 payment of such charges, taxes, or fees, and to provide for the manner and method of  
10 collecting such service charges;

11 (26) To levy a fee, charge, or sewer tax as necessary to assure the acquiring,  
12 constructing, equipping, operating, maintaining, and extending of a sewage disposal  
13 plant and sewerage system, and a water treatment or water distribution system; to levy  
14 on the users of sewers and the sewerage system a sewer service charge, fee, or sewer  
15 tax for the use of the sewers; and to provide for the manner and method of collecting  
16 such service charges and for enforcing payment of same;

17 (27) To charge, impose, and collect a water and sewer connection fee or fees, and to  
18 charge the same from time to time; such fees to be levied on the users connecting with  
19 the water and sewerage system;

20 (28) To define and regulate any act, practice, conduct, or use of property which is  
21 detrimental to the health, sanitation, cleanliness, welfare, and safety of the inhabitants  
22 of the city and to provide for the enforcement of such standards;

23 (29) To define a nuisance and provide for its abatement, whether on public or private  
24 property;

25 (30) To provide for the preservation and protection of property and equipment of the  
26 city and the administration and use of same by the public, and to prescribe penalties  
27 and punishment for violations thereof;

28 (31) To establish minimum standards for and to regulate building construction and  
29 repair, electrical wiring and equipment, gas installation and equipment, plumbing, and  
30 housing, for the health, sanitation, cleanliness, welfare, and safety of inhabitants of  
31 the city, and to provide for the enforcement of such standards;

32 (32) To provide that persons given jail sentences by the municipal court shall work  
33 out such sentence in any public works or on the streets, roads, drains, and squares in  
34 the city; or to provide for commitment of such persons to any county correctional  
35 institution or jail by agreement with the appropriate county officials;

1 (33) To adopt ordinances and regulations for the prevention of loitering, disorderly  
2 conduct, public drunkenness, and disturbing the peace in the corporate limits of the  
3 city and to prohibit the playing of lotteries therein; and to prohibit or regulate, by  
4 ordinance, such other conduct and activities within said city which, while not  
5 constituting an offense against the laws of this state, are deemed by the governing  
6 authority to be detrimental and offensive to the peace and good order of the city or to  
7 the welfare of the citizens thereof;

8 (34) To regulate the keeping or running at large of animals and fowl and to provide  
9 for the impoundment of same if in violation of any ordinance or lawful order; also,  
10 to provide for disposition by sale, gift, or humane destruction of animals and fowl  
11 when not redeemed as provided by ordinance; to provide punishment for violation of  
12 ordinances enacted under this paragraph;

13 (35) To regulate the operation of motor vehicles and exercise control over all traffic,  
14 including parking, upon or across the streets, roads, alleys, and walkways of the city;

15 (36) To regulate and license vehicles operated for hire in the city; to require the  
16 operators thereof to be licensed; to require public liability insurance on such vehicles  
17 in amounts to be prescribed by ordinance; and to regulate parking spaces in public  
18 ways for the use of such vehicles;

19 (37) To provide and maintain a system of pensions and retirement for officers and  
20 employees of the city;

21 (38) To levy and provide for the collection of special assessments to cover the costs  
22 from abutting property owners of improvements in public rights of way, sewers, water  
23 system, and other public utilities;

24 (39) To enter into contracts and agreements with other governmental entities and  
25 with private persons, firms, and corporations providing for services to be furnished  
26 and payments to be made therefor;

27 (40) To create, alter, or abolish departments boards, offices, commissions,  
28 authorities, and agencies of the city, and to confer upon such agencies the necessary  
29 and appropriate authority for carrying out all the powers conferred upon or delegated  
30 to same;

31 (41) To make, ordain, and establish such bylaws, ordinances, rules, and regulations  
32 as shall appear necessary for the security, welfare, convenience, and interest of the  
33 city and the inhabitants thereof, and for preserving the health, peace, order, and good  
34 government of the city;

35 (42) To provide penalties for violations of any ordinance adopted pursuant to the  
36 authority of this charter and the laws of the State of Georgia;

1 (43) To exercise the power of arrest through duly appointed law enforcement  
2 personnel;

3 (44) To prepare, modify, and adopt land use plans to enact zoning ordinances and  
4 other environmental control ordinances;

5 (45) To establish procedures for determining and proclaiming that an emergency  
6 situation exists inside or outside the city, and to make and carry out all reasonable  
7 provisions deemed necessary to deal with or meet such an emergency for the  
8 protection, safety, health, or well-being of the citizens of the city;

9 (46) To safeguard all individuals in public employment from discrimination in  
10 employment; to promote the elimination of discrimination against all individuals in  
11 public employment because of such individuals' race, color, religion, national origin,  
12 sex, handicap, or age thereby to promote the protection of their interest in personal  
13 dignity and freedom from humiliation;

14 (47) To exercise and enjoy all other powers, functions, rights, privileges, and  
15 immunities necessary or desirable to promote or protect the safety, health, peace,  
16 security, good order, comfort, convenience, or general welfare of the city and its  
17 inhabitants; to exercise all implied powers necessary to carry into execution all  
18 powers granted in this charter as fully and completely as if such powers were fully  
19 enumerated in this charter; and to exercise all powers now or in the future authorized  
20 to be exercised by other municipal governments under other laws of the State of  
21 Georgia.

22 (b) No enumeration of particular powers in this charter shall be held to be exclusive of  
23 others, nor restrictive of general words and phrases granting powers, but shall be held to be  
24 in addition to such powers unless expressly prohibited to municipalities under the  
25 Constitution or applicable laws of the State of Georgia.

#### 26 **SECTION 1.04.**

##### 27 **General Powers and Limitations on Powers.**

28 In addition to all other powers granted by this charter the city shall be vested with any and  
29 all powers which municipal corporations are, or may hereafter be, authorized or required to  
30 exercise under the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia, as fully and completely as  
31 though such powers were specifically enumerated in this charter.

**SECTION 1.05.**

## Exercise of Powers.

All powers, functions, rights, privileges, and immunities of the city, its offices, agencies, or employees shall be carried into execution as provided by this charter. If this charter makes no provision therefor, such powers, functions, rights, privileges, and immunities shall be carried into execution, as provided by ordinance of the governing authority and as provided by pertinent laws of the State of Georgia.

**ARTICLE II****GOVERNING BODY****SECTION 2.01.**

## Legislative Branch.

(a) The legislative authority of the government of the City of Sandy Springs, except as otherwise specifically provided in this charter, shall be vested in a city council, to be composed of a mayor and eight councilmembers.

(b) The mayor shall be elected by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the city at large voting at the elections provided for by Article V of this charter. Each councilmember shall be elected by a majority vote of the qualified electors of his or her respective council district voting at the elections provided for by Article V of this charter. For the purpose of electing the eight councilmembers, there shall be eight council districts as provided for by Section 2.05 of this charter.

**SECTION 2.02.**

## First Election; Terms of Office.

The first election for mayor and councilmembers shall be a special election held in 2001 on the date specified in Article V of this charter. At said election, the mayor and the councilmembers elected from Council Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 shall be elected for initial terms of office beginning the first day of January, 2002, and expiring on December 31, 2003. The councilmembers elected from Council Districts 2, 4, 6, and 8 shall be elected for initial terms of office beginning on the first day of January, 2002, and expiring on December 31, 2005. Thereafter, at the elections provided for by Article V of this charter, their successors shall be elected for terms of four years. All members shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified. The persons elected as mayor and councilmembers shall take office on the

1 first day of January immediately following their election in the manner prescribed by Section  
2 2.11 of this charter.

3 **SECTION 2.03.**

4 Qualification for Office of Mayor.

5 No person shall be eligible to serve as mayor unless he or she shall have been a resident of  
6 the area comprising the corporate limits of the City of Sandy Springs for at least 12 months  
7 and shall continue to reside within the city during his or her period of service and shall be  
8 registered and qualified to vote in municipal elections of the City of Sandy Springs. In  
9 addition to the foregoing, any person eligible to serve as mayor shall not be ineligible for  
10 such office under Code Section 45-2-1 of the O.C.G.A.

11 **SECTION 2.04.**

12 Qualification for Office of Councilmembers.

13 No person shall be eligible to serve as a councilmember unless he or she shall have been a  
14 resident of the area comprising the corporate limits of the City of Sandy Springs for at least  
15 12 months and a resident of the area comprising the district he or she wishes to represent for  
16 a continuous period of six months immediately prior to the date of the election of  
17 councilmembers, and shall continue to reside within the district during his or her period of  
18 service, and shall be registered and qualified to vote in municipal elections of the City of  
19 Sandy Springs. In addition to the foregoing, any person eligible to serve as councilmember  
20 shall not be ineligible for such office under Code Section 45-2-1 of the O.C.G.A.

21 **SECTION 2.05.**

22 Districts of the City of Sandy Springs.

23 For the purpose of electing the eight district councilmembers, the territory comprising the  
24 corporate limits of the City of Sandy Springs shall be divided into eight council districts to  
25 be designated Council Districts 1 through 8. Each person desiring to offer as a candidate for  
26 councilmember shall designate the council district for which he or she is offering. The eight  
27 council districts shall be as described in Exhibit B of this charter which is attached to and is  
28 made a part of the charter of the City of Sandy Springs.

**SECTION 2.06.**

## Vacancy; Forfeiture of Office; Filling of Vacancies.

(a) The office of mayor or councilmember shall become vacant upon the incumbent's death, resignation, forfeiture of office, or removal from office in any manner authorized by this charter or the laws of the State of Georgia.

(b) The mayor or any councilmember shall forfeit his or her office if he or she:

(1) Lacks at any time during his or her term of office any qualifications of the office as prescribed by this charter or the laws of the State of Georgia;

(2) Willfully and knowingly violates any express prohibition of this charter, as determined by a majority of the councilmembers; or

(3) Is finally convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude.

(c) A vacancy in the office of mayor shall be filled by the mayor pro tempore for the unexpired term if the vacancy occurs in the last 27 months of the term of office. If the vacancy occurs before the last 27 months of the term of office, the mayor pro tempore shall fill the vacancy until a successor is elected for the remainder of the unexpired term at a special election conducted at the next regular municipal election. An election to fill a vacancy in the office of mayor shall be held in the city at large. A vacancy in the office of councilmember shall be filled by vote of the remaining councilmembers for the unexpired term if the vacancy occurs in the last 27 months of the term of office. If the vacancy occurs before the last 27 months of the term of office, the remaining councilmembers shall fill the vacancy until a successor is elected for the remainder of the unexpired term at a special election conducted at the next regular municipal election. An election to fill a vacancy in the office of a councilmember shall be held in the council district wherein the vacancy exists.

**SECTION 2.07.**

## Compensation and Expenses.

The annual salary of the mayor shall be \$15,000.00 and for each councilmember from Districts 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 shall be \$5,000.00 per annum and for each councilmember from Districts 1 and 3 shall be \$7,500.00 per annum. Such salaries shall be paid from municipal funds. Extraordinary expenses, such as attendance at conventions, may be paid from municipal funds when approved in advance by the city council.

**SECTION 2.08.**

## Prohibitions.

(a) Except as authorized by law, no member of the council shall hold any other elective city office or city employment during the term for which he or she was elected.

(b) Neither the mayor nor any other member of the council shall vote upon any question in which he or she has a personal interest.

**SECTION 2.09.**

## General Power and Authority of the Council.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law or by this charter, the council shall be vested with all the powers of government of the City of Sandy Springs as provided by Article I of this charter.

(b) In addition to all other powers conferred upon it by law, the council shall have the authority to adopt and provide for the execution of such ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations, not inconsistent with this charter, the Constitution and the laws of the State of Georgia, which it shall deem necessary, expedient, or helpful for the peace, good order, protection of life and property, health, welfare, sanitation, comfort, convenience, prosperity, or well-being of the inhabitants of the City of Sandy Springs and may enforce such ordinances by imposing penalties for violation thereof.

(c) The council may, by ordinance, create, change, alter, abolish, or consolidate offices, agencies, and departments of the city and may assign additional functions to any of the offices, agencies, and departments expressly provided for by this charter.

**SECTION 2.10.**

## Powers and Duties of Mayor.

The mayor shall be the official spokesman for the city and the chief advocate of policy. He or she shall preside at meetings of the council, sign ordinances and resolutions on their final passage, and sign deeds, bonds, contracts, and other instruments or documents when authorized by the council to do so. The mayor shall perform such other duties as may be imposed by this charter or by ordinance of the council not inconsistent therewith. Unless otherwise expressly provided by law or this charter, he or she shall have no vote on any question before the city council, except in case of a tie. He or she shall have power to veto any action of the city council, except an impeachment resolution against the mayor or any resolution for removal of the mayor.

**SECTION 2.11.**

## Organization and Procedures; Organization Meeting.

The council shall meet for organization on the first working day in January immediately following each municipal election. The meeting may be called to order by the presiding judge of the Superior Court of Fulton County or by a judge of the Superior Court of Fulton County designated by said presiding judge and the oath of office shall be administered to the newly elected members as follows:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly perform the duties of (mayor or councilmember, as the case may be) of the city and that I will support and defend the charter thereof as well as the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia and of the United States of America."

Following the induction of members, the council, by majority vote of all the members thereof, shall elect a councilmember to be mayor pro tempore, who shall serve for a term of two years and until a successor is elected and qualified.

**SECTION 2.12.**

## Regular and Special Meetings.

(a) The council shall hold regular meetings at such times and places as prescribed by ordinance. The council may recess any regular meeting and continue such meeting on any weekday or hour it may fix and may transact any business at such continued meeting as may be transacted at any regular meeting.

(b) Special meetings of the council may be held on call of the mayor or four members of the council. Notice of such special meetings shall be delivered to all members of the council and the mayor personally, or by registered mail or a notice in writing that is received by each member of the council and the mayor. Such notice of a special meeting shall be delivered and received at least twelve hours in advance of the meeting. The notice of such special meeting shall state what business may be transacted at the special meeting. Only the business stated in the call may be transacted at the special meeting.

(c) All meetings of the city council, committee, and board shall be open to the public to the extent required by law.



**SECTION 2.16.**

## Emergency Ordinances.

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3 To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property, or public peace, the council may  
4 adopt one or more emergency ordinances, but such ordinances may not levy taxes; grant,  
5 renew, or extend a franchise; regulate the rate charged by any public utility for its services;  
6 or authorize the borrowing of money, except as provided by law. An emergency ordinance  
7 shall be introduced in the form and manner prescribed for ordinances generally, except that  
8 it shall be plainly designated as an emergency ordinance and shall contain, after the enacting  
9 clause, a declaration stating that an emergency exists and describing it in clear and specific  
10 terms. An emergency ordinance may be adopted with or without amendment or rejection at  
11 the meeting at which it is introduced, but the affirmative vote of at least four councilmembers  
12 shall be required for adoption. It shall become effective upon adoption or at such later time  
13 as it may specify. Every emergency ordinance shall automatically stand repealed at the next  
14 regular meeting of the council unless reenacted at the next regular meeting upon which it was  
15 adopted.

**SECTION 2.17.**

## Codes of Technical Regulations.

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17  
18 (a) The council may adopt any standard code of technical regulations by reference thereto  
19 in an adopting ordinance. The procedure and requirements governing such adopting  
20 ordinance shall be as prescribed for ordinances generally, except that (1) the requirements  
21 of Section 2.18 of this charter for distribution and filing of copies of the ordinance shall be  
22 construed to include copies of any code of technical regulations, as well as the adopting  
23 ordinance; and (2) a copy of each adopted code of technical regulations, as well as the  
24 adopting ordinance, shall be authenticated and recorded pursuant to said Section 2.18.  
25 (b) Copies of any adopted code of technical regulations shall be made available by the clerk  
26 for distribution or for purchase.

**SECTION 2.18.**

## Submission of Ordinances to the Mayor.

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28  
29 (a) Every ordinance adopted by the council shall be presented promptly to the mayor.  
30 (b) The mayor, within five calendar days of receipt of an ordinance, shall return it, with or  
31 without his or her signature of approval, or with his or her disapproval. If the ordinance has

1 been signed and approved by the mayor, it shall become law; if the ordinance is neither  
2 approved nor disapproved, it shall become law at 12:00 Noon on the fifth calendar day after  
3 its adoption; if the ordinance is disapproved, the mayor shall submit to the council a written  
4 statement of the reasons for his or her veto. The date of the delivery to and receipt from the  
5 mayor shall be recorded upon the ordinance.

6 (c) Ordinances vetoed by the mayor shall be presented to the council at its next regular  
7 meeting, and if the council then or at its next regular meeting adopts the ordinance by an  
8 affirmative vote of four members, it shall become law.

9 (d) The mayor may disapprove or reduce any item or items of appropriation in any  
10 ordinance. The approved part or parts of any ordinance making appropriations shall become  
11 law, and the part or parts disapproved shall not become law unless subsequently passed by  
12 the city council over the mayor's veto as provided in this charter.

13 (e) All ordinances that have been signed by the mayor or adopted over his or her veto, as  
14 provided for in subsection (c) of this section, shall be recorded in full in a properly indexed  
15 book kept for that purpose. The council shall provide for the preparation of a general  
16 codification of all of the ordinances of the city having the force and effect of law. The  
17 general codification shall be adopted by the council by ordinance and shall be published  
18 promptly, together with all amendments thereto with this charter and any amendment thereto,  
19 and such codes of technical regulations and other rules and regulations as the city council  
20 may specify. This compilation shall be known and cited officially as "The Code of the City  
21 of Sandy Springs, Georgia." Copies of the code shall be furnished to all officers,  
22 departments, and agencies of the city and made available for purchase by the public at a  
23 reasonable price as fixed by the council.

24 (f) The council shall cause each ordinance and each amendment to this charter to be printed  
25 promptly following its adoption, and the printed ordinances and charter amendments shall  
26 be made available for purchase by the public at reasonable prices to be fixed by the council.  
27 Following the initial publication of "The Code of the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia", and  
28 at all times thereafter, the ordinances and charter amendments shall be printed in  
29 substantially the same style as the code currently in effect and shall be suitable in form for  
30 incorporation therein. The council shall make such further arrangements as deemed desirable  
31 with respect to reproduction and distribution of any current changes in or additions to codes  
32 of technical regulations and other rules and regulations included in the code.

### 33 ARTICLE III

#### 34 EXECUTIVE BRANCH

#### 35 Organization and General Provisions.



1 himself or herself to faithfully and impartially perform the duties of his or her office, such  
2 oath to be prescribed by ordinance of the council and administered by the mayor.

3 (e) Any member of a board, commission or authority may be removed from office for cause  
4 by a vote of a majority of the members of the council. He or she may file with the council  
5 a written request for hearing in the same manner as provided in Section 3.06 of this charter.

6 (f) Members of boards, commissions, and authorities may receive such compensation and  
7 expenses in the performance of their official duties as prescribed by ordinance.

8 (g) The qualifications required of members of boards, commissions, and authorities shall be  
9 as prescribed by ordinance.

10 (h) Except as otherwise provided by this charter or by applicable state law, each board,  
11 commission, or authority of the city government shall elect one of its members as  
12 chairperson and one member as vice-chairperson for terms of one year and may elect as its  
13 secretary one of its own members or may appoint as secretary an employee of the city. Each  
14 board, commission, or authority of the city government may establish such bylaws, rules, and  
15 regulations not inconsistent with this charter, ordinances of the city, or applicable state law  
16 as it deems appropriate and necessary for the conduct of its affairs, copies of which shall be  
17 filed with the designated officer of the city.

18 **SECTION 3.03.**

19 City Manager; Appointment, Qualification, and Compensation.

20 The council shall appoint for an indefinite term an officer whose title shall be the "city  
21 manager." The city manager shall be appointed without regard to political beliefs and solely  
22 on the basis of his or her executive and administrative qualifications with special reference  
23 to his or her educational background and actual experience in, and knowledge of, the duties  
24 of office as hereinafter prescribed. At the time of appointment, the city manager need not  
25 be a resident of the City of Sandy Springs or the State of Georgia, but if he or she is not a  
26 resident of the city at the time of appointment, the person appointed city manager shall  
27 become a resident within 60 days after the date of appointment and continuously maintain  
28 such residency while holding office as city manager. The compensation of the city manager  
29 shall be fixed by the council by ordinance.

**SECTION 3.04.**

City Manager; Chief Executive Officer.

The city manager shall be the chief executive officer of the government of the City of Sandy Springs. The city manager must devote all of his or her working time and attention to the affairs of the city and shall be responsible to the mayor and council for the proper and efficient administration of the affairs of the city over which said officer has jurisdiction.

**SECTION 3.05.**

City Manager; Powers and Duties Enumerated.

(a) The city manager shall have the power, and it shall be his or her duty to:

- (1) See that all laws and ordinances are enforced;
- (2) Appoint and employ all necessary employees of the city, provided that excepted from the power of this appointment are those officers and employees who by this Act are appointed or elected by the council or departments not under the jurisdiction of the city manager;
- (3) Remove employees employed by said officer without the consent of the council and without assigning any reason therefor;
- (4) Exercise supervision and control of all departments and all divisions created in this charter or that may hereafter be created by the council except as otherwise provided in this Act;
- (5) Attend all meetings of the council with a right to take part in the discussions, but having no vote. The city manager shall be entitled to notice of all special meetings;
- (6) Recommend to the council for adoption such measures as said officer may deem necessary or expedient;
- (7) See that all terms and conditions imposed in favor of the city or its inhabitants in any public utility franchise are faithfully kept and performed and upon knowledge of any violation thereof to call the same to the attention of the city attorney, whose duty it shall be forthwith to take such steps as are necessary to protect and enforce the same;
- (8) Make and execute all lawful contracts on behalf of the city as to matters within said officer's jurisdiction, except such as may be otherwise provided by law or by ordinance passed by the council; provided, however, that no contract purchase or obligation involving over \$5,000.00 shall be valid and binding until after approval of the council;

1 (9) Act as budget officer with such committee as the city council may appoint to  
 2 prepare and submit to the council prior to the beginning of each fiscal year a budget  
 3 of proposed expenditures for the ensuing year, showing in as much detail as  
 4 practicable the amounts allotted to each department of the city government and the  
 5 reasons for such estimated expenditures;

6 (10) Keep the council at all times fully advised as to the financial condition and needs  
 7 of the city;

8 (11) Make a full written report to the council on the first of each month showing the  
 9 operations and expenditures of each department of the city government for the  
 10 preceding month, and a synopsis of such reports shall be published by the clerk of the  
 11 city;

12 (12) Fix all salaries and compensation of city employees lawfully employed by said  
 13 officer, subject, however, to supervision, control, or disapproval by the council; and

14 (13) Perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this Act or required by  
 15 ordinance or resolution of the council.

16 (b) The city manager shall be the purchasing agent for the city by whom all the purchases  
 17 of supplies for departments under said officer's control and all contracts for printing shall be  
 18 made, as hereinbefore provided, and said officer shall approve all vouchers for same;  
 19 provided, however, that all contracts or agreements made by said officer requiring the  
 20 expenditure of money to the amount of \$5,000.00 or more shall be approved by the council.  
 21 In the capacity of purchasing agent, said officer shall conduct all sales of personal property  
 22 which the council may authorize to be sold and which have become unnecessary or unfit for  
 23 the city's use. All purchases and sales shall conform to such regulations as the council may  
 24 from time to time prescribe, but, in any case, if an amount in excess of \$5,000.00 is involved,  
 25 opportunity for competition shall be given after reasonable advertisement thereof.

### 26 **SECTION 3.06.**

#### 27 **City Manager; Removal.**

28 (a) The mayor and council may remove the manager from office for cause in accordance  
 29 with the following procedures:

30 (1) The council shall adopt by affirmative vote of a majority of all its members a  
 31 preliminary resolution which must state the reasons for removal and may suspend the  
 32 city manager from duty for a period not to exceed 45 days. A copy of the resolution  
 33 shall be delivered promptly to the city manager;

34 (2) Within five days after a copy of the resolution is delivered to the city manager,  
 35 he or she may file with the council a written request for a public hearing. This hearing

1 shall be held at a council meeting not earlier than 15 days nor later than 30 days after  
2 the request is filed. The city manager may file with the council a written reply not  
3 later than five days before the hearing; and

4 (3) The council may adopt a final resolution of removal, which may be made  
5 effective immediately, by affirmative vote of a majority of all its members at any time  
6 after five days from the date when a copy of the preliminary resolution was delivered  
7 to the city manager, if he or she has not requested a public hearing, or at any time  
8 after the public hearing if he or she has requested one.

9 (b) The city manager shall continue to receive his or her salary until the effective date of a  
10 final resolution of removal and, unless he or she has been convicted of a felony at that time,  
11 he or she shall be given not less than 60 days' severance pay. The action of the council in  
12 suspending or removing the city manager shall not be subject to review by any court or  
13 agency.

14 (c) If the city manager becomes disabled and is unable to carry out the duties of the office  
15 or if the city manager dies, the acting city manager shall perform the duties of the city  
16 manager until the city manager's disability is removed or until the city manager is replaced.  
17 Removal of the city manager because of disability shall be carried out in accordance with the  
18 provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

### 19 **SECTION 3.07.**

#### 20 **Acting City Manager.**

21 (a) The city manager may designate in writing any administrative employee of the city who  
22 shall exercise all powers, duties, and functions of the city manager during the city manager's  
23 temporary absence from the city or during the city manager's disability. If such designation  
24 has not been made and the city manager is absent from the city or unable to perform the  
25 duties of the office or to make such designation, the council may, by resolution, appoint any  
26 qualified administrative employee of the city to perform the powers, duties, and functions  
27 of the city manager until the city manager shall return to the city, the disability ceases, or the  
28 council appoints a new city manager.

29 (b) In the event of a vacancy in the office of city manager, the council may designate a  
30 person as acting city manager, who shall exercise all powers, duties, and functions of the city  
31 manager until a city manager is appointed.

**SECTION 3.08.**

City Attorney.

3 The mayor shall nominate and the council shall confirm a city attorney, together with such  
4 assistant city attorneys as may be authorized by ordinance, and shall provide for the payment  
5 of such attorney or attorneys for services rendered to the city. The city attorney shall be  
6 responsible for representing and defending the city in all litigation in which the city is a  
7 party; may be the prosecuting officer in the municipal court; shall attend the meetings of the  
8 council as directed; shall advise the council, mayor, other officers, and employees of the city  
9 concerning legal aspects of the city's affairs; and shall perform such other duties as may be  
10 required by virtue of his or her position as city attorney.

**SECTION 3.09.**

City Clerk.

13 The mayor may appoint a city clerk, subject to confirmation by the council, to keep a journal  
14 of the proceedings of the city council; to maintain in a safe place all records and documents  
15 pertaining to the affairs of the city; and to perform such duties as may be required by law or  
16 ordinance or as the mayor or city manager may direct.

**SECTION 3.10.**

Tax Collector.

19 The mayor may appoint a tax collector, subject to confirmation by the council, to collect all  
20 taxes, licenses, fees, and other moneys belonging to the city subject to the provisions of this  
21 charter and the ordinances of the city; and the tax collector shall diligently comply with and  
22 enforce all general laws of Georgia relating to the collection, sale, or foreclosure of taxes by  
23 municipalities.

**SECTION 3.11.**

City Accountant.

26 The mayor may appoint a city accountant, subject to confirmation by the council, to perform  
27 the duties of an accountant.



**SECTION 4.01.**

## Creation.

1  
2  
3 There is established a court to be known as the Municipal Court of the City of Sandy Springs  
4 which shall have jurisdiction and authority to try offenses against the laws and ordinances  
5 of said city and to punish for a violation of the same. Such court shall have the power to  
6 enforce its judgments by the imposition of such penalties as may be provided by law,  
7 including ordinances of the city; to punish witnesses for nonattendance and to punish also  
8 any person who may counsel or advise, aid, encourage, or persuade another whose testimony  
9 is desired or material in any proceeding before said court to go or move beyond the reach of  
10 the process of the court; to try all offenses within the territorial limits of the city constituting  
11 traffic cases which, under the laws of Georgia, are placed within the jurisdiction of municipal  
12 courts to the extent of, and in accordance with, the provisions of such laws and all laws  
13 subsequently enacted amendatory thereof. Said court shall be presided over by the judge of  
14 said court. In the absence or disqualification of the judge, the judge pro tem shall preside and  
15 shall exercise the same powers and duties as the judge when so acting.

**SECTION 4.02.**

## Judge.

16  
17  
18 (a) No person shall be qualified or eligible to serve as judge unless he or she shall have  
19 attained the age of 21 years and shall be a member of the State Bar of Georgia. The judge  
20 shall be appointed by the council and shall serve at the discretion of the council. The  
21 compensation of the judge shall be fixed by the council. The position of judge created in this  
22 article shall not be a full-time position, and the person serving in said position may engage  
23 in the private practice of law.  
24 (b) The judge pro tem shall serve in the absence of the judge, shall have the same  
25 qualifications as the judge, shall be appointed by the council, and shall take the same oath  
26 as the judge.  
27 (c) Before entering on duties of his or her office, the judge shall take an oath before an  
28 officer duly authorized to administer oaths in this state declaring that he or she will truly,  
29 honestly, and faithfully discharge the duties of his or her office to the best of his or her ability  
30 without fear, favor, or partiality. The oath shall be entered upon the minutes of the council.

**SECTION 4.03.**

## Convening.

Said court shall be convened at such times as designated by ordinance or at such times as deemed necessary to keep current the dockets thereof.

**SECTION 4.04.**

## Jurisdiction; Powers.

(a) The municipal court shall try and punish for crimes against the City of Sandy Springs and for violation of its ordinances. The municipal court shall have authority to punish those in its presence for contempt, provided that such punishment shall not exceed \$100.00 or 15 days in jail. The municipal court may fix punishment for offenses within its jurisdiction not exceeding a fine of \$500.00 or imprisonment for 21 days or both, and as an alternative to fine or imprisonment, any offender, upon conviction may be sentenced to labor in a city work gang or on the streets, sidewalks, squares, or other public works for a period not exceeding 21 days.

(b) The municipal court shall have authority to establish a schedule of fees to defray the cost of operation and shall be entitled to reimbursement of the cost of meals, transportation, and caretaking of prisoners bound over to superior court for violations of state law.

(c) The municipal court shall have authority to establish bail and recognizances to insure the presence of those charged with violations before said court and shall have discretionary authority to accept cash or personal or real property as security for appearances of persons charged with violations. Whenever any person shall give bail for his or her appearance and shall fail to appear at the time fixed for trial, the bond shall be forfeited by the judge presiding at such time and an execution issued thereon by serving the defendant and his or her sureties with a rule nisi at least two days before a hearing on the rule nisi. In the event that cash or property is accepted in lieu of bond for security for the appearance of a defendant at trial, and if such defendant fails to appear at the time and place fixed for trial, the cash so deposited shall be on order of the judge declared forfeited to the City of Sandy Springs, or the property so deposited shall have a lien against it for the value forfeited.

(d) The municipal court shall have the authority to bind prisoners over to the appropriate court when it appears, by probable cause, that a state law has been violated.

(e) The municipal court shall have the authority to administer oaths and to perform all other acts necessary or proper to the conduct of said court.

1 (f) The municipal court may compel the presence of all parties necessary to a proper disposal  
 2 of each case by the issuance of summons, subpoena, and warrants which may be served as  
 3 executed by any officer as authorized by this charter or by state law.

4 (g) The municipal court is specifically vested with all of the judicial jurisdiction and judicial  
 5 powers throughout the entire area of the City of Sandy Springs granted by state laws  
 6 generally to municipal courts, and particularly by such laws as authorize the abatement of  
 7 nuisances.

#### 8 **SECTION 4.05.**

##### 9 Certiorari.

10 The right of certiorari from the decision and judgment of the municipal court shall exist in  
 11 all criminal cases and ordinance violation cases, and such certiorari shall be obtained under  
 12 the sanction of a judge of the Superior Court of Fulton County under the laws of the State of  
 13 Georgia regulating the granting and issuance of writs of certiorari.

#### 14 **SECTION 4.06.**

##### 15 Rules for Court.

16 With the approval of the council, the judge shall have full power and authority to make  
 17 reasonable rules and regulations necessary and proper to secure the efficient and successful  
 18 administration of the municipal court; provided, however, that the council may adopt in part  
 19 or in total the rules and regulations relative to the procedure of the operation of the superior  
 20 court under the general laws of the State of Georgia. The rules and regulations made or  
 21 adopted for said court shall be filed with the city clerk, shall be available for public  
 22 inspection, and, upon request, a copy shall be furnished to all defendants in municipal court  
 23 proceedings at least 48 hours prior to said proceedings.

### 24 **ARTICLE V**

#### 25 **ELECTION AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

#### 26 **SECTION 5.01.**

##### 27 Nonpartisan Elections.

28 Political parties shall not conduct primaries for city offices and all names of candidates for  
 29 city offices shall be listed without party labels.



- 1 (1) Incompetence, misfeasance, or malfeasance in office;  
 2 (2) Final conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude;  
 3 (3) Failure at any time to possess any of the qualifications of office as provided by  
 4 this charter or by law;  
 5 (4) Willfull violation of any express prohibition of this charter;  
 6 (5) Abandonment of office or neglect to perform the duties thereof; or  
 7 (6) Failure for any other cause to perform the duties of office as required by this  
 8 charter or by law.

9 **SECTION 5.06.**

10 Procedure for Removal.

11 Removal of an elected officer from office may be accomplished by one of the following  
 12 methods:

- 13 (1) By action of two-thirds' vote of the entire membership of the council. In the  
 14 event an elected officer is sought to be removed by the action of the council, such  
 15 officer shall be entitled to a written notice specifying the grounds for removal and to  
 16 a public hearing which shall be held not less than ten days after the service of such  
 17 written notice. Any elected officer sought to be removed from office as provided in  
 18 this section shall have the right of appeal from the decision of the council to the  
 19 Superior Court of Fulton County. Such appeal shall be governed by the same rules  
 20 as govern appeals to the superior court from the probate court; or  
 21 (2) By information filed in the Superior Court of Fulton County as provided by law.

22 **ARTICLE VI**

23 **CODE OF ETHICS AND PROHIBITED PRACTICES**

24 **SECTION 6.01.**

25 Conflict of Interest.

26 No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the City of Sandy Springs or any  
 27 agency or political entity to which this code of ethics applies shall knowingly:

- 28 (1) Engage in any business or transaction or have a financial or other personal  
 29 interest, direct or indirect, which is incompatible with the proper discharge of his or  
 30 her official duties or which would tend to impair his or her independence of judgment  
 31 or action in the performance of his or her official duties;

1 (2) Contract with, engage in any business or transaction with, or be or become an  
 2 employee of any other municipality or county of this state or the state itself while  
 3 holding any elective office of the city or while serving as a full-time employee of the  
 4 city;

5 (3) Engage in or accept private employment or render services for private interests  
 6 when such employment or service is incompatible with the proper discharge of his or  
 7 her official duties or would tend to impair his or her independence of judgment or  
 8 action in the performance of his or her official duties;

9 (4) Disclose confidential information concerning the property, government, or affairs  
 10 of the governmental body by which he or she is employed without proper legal  
 11 authorization, or use such information to advance the financial or other private  
 12 interest of himself or herself or others;

13 (5) Accept any valuable gift, whether in the form of service, loan, thing, or promise,  
 14 from any person, firm, or corporation which, to his or her knowledge, is interested,  
 15 directly or indirectly, in any manner whatsoever in business dealings with the  
 16 governmental body by which he or she is employed; provided, however, that an  
 17 elected official who is a candidate for public office may accept campaign  
 18 contributions and services in connection with any campaign;

19 (6) Represent private interests in any action or proceeding against the council by  
 20 which he or she is employed; or

21 (7) Vote or otherwise participate in the negotiation or the making of any contract  
 22 with any business or entity in which he or she has a financial interest.

## 23 **SECTION 6.02.**

### 24 Disclosure.

25 Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the City of Sandy Springs who shall  
 26 have any private financial interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract or matter pending  
 27 before or within any department of the city shall disclose such private interest to the council.

28 The mayor or any councilmember who has a private interest in any matter pending before  
 29 the council shall disclose such private interest and such disclosure shall be entered on the  
 30 records of the council and he or she shall disqualify himself or herself from participating in  
 31 any decision or vote relating thereto. Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee  
 32 of any agency or political entity to which this code of ethics applies who shall have any  
 33 private financial interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract or matter pending before or  
 34 within such agency or entity shall disclose such private interest to the governing body of such  
 35 agency or entity.

**SECTION 6.03.**

## Financial Disclosure Statements.

Each elected official of the City of Sandy Springs shall file a financial disclosure statement as required by Article 3 of Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A.

**SECTION 6.04.**

## Use of Public Property.

No elected official, appointed officer, employee of the city, or any agency or entity to which this code of ethics applies shall use property owned by such governmental body for personal benefit, convenience, or profit, except in accordance with policies promulgated by the council or the governing body of such agency or entity.

**SECTION 6.05.**

## Contracts Voidable and Rescindable.

Any violation of this code of ethics which occurs with the knowledge, express or implied, of another party to a contract or sale shall render said contract or sale voidable as to that party, at the option of the council.

**SECTION 6.06.**

## Ineligibility of Elected Officials.

Except where authorized by law, neither the mayor nor any councilmember shall hold any other elective or appointive office in the city or otherwise be employed by said government or any agency thereof during the term for which he or she was elected. No former mayor and no former councilmember shall hold any compensated appointive office in the city until one year after leaving office.

**SECTION 6.07.**

## Political Activities of Certain Officers and Employees.

No appointive officer and no employee of the city shall continue in such employment upon qualifying as a candidate for nomination or election to any public office.



**SECTION 7.03.**

## Tax Due Dates and Tax Bills.

1  
2  
3 The council shall provide, by ordinance, when the taxes of the city shall fall due and the time  
4 period within which said taxes may be paid and shall provide, by ordinance, for the payment  
5 of taxes due to the city in installments or in one lump sum, and when and how and upon what  
6 terms such taxes shall be due and payable, as well as authorize the voluntary payment of  
7 taxes prior to the time when due.

**SECTION 7.04.**

## Collection of Delinquent Taxes.

8  
9  
10 The council may provide, by ordinance, for the collection of delinquent taxes by fi. fa. or by  
11 the use of any other available legal processes and remedies. A lien shall exist against all  
12 property upon which city property taxes are levied, as of the assessment date of each year,  
13 which lien shall be superior to all other liens, except that it shall have equal dignity with  
14 those of federal, state, or county taxes. In cases of hardship, the council shall have  
15 discretionary authority to waive any and all penalties imposed by this charter on delinquent  
16 taxes, fees, assessments, or on other amounts due to the city.

**SECTION 7.05.**

## Licenses, Occupational Taxes, Excise Taxes.

17  
18  
19 The council, by ordinance, shall have full power to levy such license and specific or  
20 occupation taxes upon residents of the City of Sandy Springs, both individual and corporate,  
21 and on all those who transact or offer to practice any profession or calling therein, as the  
22 council may deem expedient for the public health, safety, benefit, convenience or advantage  
23 of the city. The council may classify businesses, occupations, professions, or callings for the  
24 purpose of such taxation in any way which may be lawful and may compel the payment of  
25 such taxes by execution or any other lawful manner. The council may make laws and  
26 regulations necessary or proper to carry out the powers conferred in this section and may  
27 prescribe penalties for any violation thereof. The council shall have full power and authority  
28 to levy an excise tax not prohibited by general law.

**SECTION 7.06.**

## Water and Sewer Service Charges.

The council, by ordinance, shall have the right, power, and authority to assess and collect fees, charges, and tolls for water and sewer services rendered both inside and outside the corporate limits of the City of Sandy Springs to provide for the cost and expense of providing for the treatment and distribution of water, and the collection and disposal of sewage through the sewerage facilities of said city. If unpaid, said sewer service charge shall constitute a lien against any property of persons served, which lien shall be second in priority only to liens for county and city property taxes and shall be enforceable in the same manner and under the same remedies as a lien for city property taxes.

**SECTION 7.07.**

## Sanitary and Health Services Charge.

The council shall have authority, by ordinance, to provide for, to enforce, to levy, and to collect the cost of sanitary and health services necessary in the operation of the city from all individuals, firms, and corporations residing in or doing business in said city benefiting from such service. Such authority shall include the power to assess, levy, and collect annual or monthly sanitary taxes or fees in such amount or amounts and based upon and in accordance with such classification of property and sanitary service or service provided, as may be fixed by ordinance. Said sanitary taxes and the assessments thereof shall be a charge and lien against the real estate in respect to which said taxes are so assessed and the owner or owners thereof, superior to all other liens, except liens for county and city property taxes, and shall be enforceable in the same manner and under the same remedies as a lien for city property taxes.

**SECTION 7.08.**

## Special Assessments.

The council shall have power and authority to assess all or part of the cost of constructing, reconstructing, widening, or improving any public way, street, sidewalk, curbing, gutters, sewers, or other utility mains and appurtenances against the abutting property owners, under such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by ordinance. Such special assessments shall become delinquent 30 days after their due dates, shall thereupon be subject, in addition to fi. fa. charges, to a penalty of 10 percent and shall thereafter be subject to interest at the

1 rate of 7 percent per annum from date due until paid. A lien shall exist against the abutting  
2 property superior to all other liens, except that it shall be of equal dignity with liens for  
3 county and city property taxes, and said lien shall be enforceable by the same procedures and  
4 under the same remedies as provided for in this article for city property taxes.

5 **SECTION 7.09.**

6 Transfer of Executions.

7 The city clerk shall be authorized to assign or transfer any fi. fa. or execution issued for any  
8 tax or for any street, sewer, or other assessment in the same manner and to the same extent  
9 as provided by Georgia law regarding sales and transfers of tax fi. fas. Such transfer or  
10 assignment, when made, shall vest the purchaser or transferee with all right, title and interest  
11 as provided by Georgia law governing sales and transfers of tax fi. fas., provided that, upon  
12 levy of execution and sale of property pursuant to such tax fi. fas., whether assigned,  
13 transferred, or executed by the city, the owner of such property, in fee simple or lesser  
14 interest, shall not lose his right to redeem the property in accord with the requirements of  
15 redemption of property sold under state or county ad valorem tax fi. fas., as said requirements  
16 now exist or as may be hereinafter provided by law.

17 **SECTION 7.10.**

18 General Obligation Bonds.

19 The council shall have the power to issue bonds for the purpose of raising revenue to carry  
20 out any project, program, or venture authorized under this charter or the general laws of the  
21 state. Such bonding authority shall be exercised in accordance with the laws governing bond  
22 issuances by municipalities in effect at the time said issue is undertaken.

23 **SECTION 7.11.**

24 Revenue Bonds.

25 Revenue bonds may be issued by the council as provided by Article 3 of Chapter 82 of Title  
26 36 of the O.C.G.A., known as the "Revenue Bond Law," as now or hereafter amended, or by  
27 any other Georgia law as now or hereafter provided.



**SECTION 7.16.**

## Action by Council on Budget.

(a) The council may amend the operating budget proposed by the city manager, except that the budget, as finally amended and adopted, must provide for all expenditure required by law, or by other provisions of this charter, and for all debt service requirements for the ensuing fiscal year and the total appropriations from any fund shall not exceed the estimated fund balance, reserves, and revenues, constituting the fund availability of such fund.

(b) The council shall adopt the final operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year on or before a date fixed by ordinance of the council. If the council fails to adopt the budget by said date, the amounts appropriated for the current fiscal year shall be applicable to the ensuing fiscal year on a month-to-month basis, with all items prorated accordingly, until such time as the council adopts a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. Such adoption shall take the form of an appropriation ordinance setting out the estimated revenues in detail by sources and making appropriations according to fund and by organizational unit, purpose, or activity as set out in the budget document.

(c) The amount set out in the adopted operating budget for each organizational unit shall constitute the annual appropriation for such item, and no expenditure shall be made or encumbrance created in excess of the otherwise unencumbered balance of the appropriations or allotment thereof, to which it is chargeable.

**SECTION 7.17.**

## Property Tax Levies.

As the next order of business, following adoption of the operating budget, the council shall levy, by ordinance, an annual tax on all real and personal property within the City of Sandy Springs. The tax rate set by such ordinance shall be such that reasonable estimates of revenues from such levy shall at least be sufficient, together with other anticipated revenues, fund balances, and applicable reserves, to equal the total amount appropriated for each of the several funds set forth in the annual operating budget for defraying the expenses of the general government of the City of Sandy Springs and the retirement of bonds.

**SECTION 7.18.**

## Additional Appropriations.

The council may make appropriations in addition to those contained in the current operating budget at any regular or special meeting called for such purpose, but any such additional appropriations may be made only from an existing unappropriated surplus in the fund to which it applies.

**SECTION 7.19.**

## Capital Improvements Budget.

(a) On or before the date fixed by the city council, but not later than 30 days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the city manager shall submit to the council a proposed capital improvements budget with his or her recommendations as to the means of financing the improvements proposed for the ensuing fiscal year. The council shall have power to accept, with or without amendments, or reject the proposed program and proposed means of financing. The council shall not authorize an expenditure for the construction of any building, structure, work, or improvement, unless the appropriations for such project are included in the capital improvements budget, except to meet a public emergency threatening the lives, health, or property of the inhabitants, when passed by two-thirds' vote of the membership of the council.

(b) The council shall adopt the final capital improvements budget for the ensuing fiscal year on or before a date fixed by ordinance of the council. No appropriation provided for in the capital improvements budget shall elapse until the purpose for which the appropriation was made shall have been accomplished or abandoned, provided the city manager may submit amendments to the capital improvements budget at any time during the fiscal year, accompanied by his or her recommendations thereon. Any such amendments to the capital improvements budget shall become effective only upon adoption by a vote of the council.

**SECTION 7.20.**

## Contracting Procedures.

All contracts shall be made or authorized by the council and shall not bind the city unless reduced to writing, approved by the council, and spread upon the minutes. All contracts, and all ordinances or resolutions making contracts or authorizing the same, shall be drawn by the city attorney or shall be submitted to him or her before authorization by the council.

**SECTION 7.21.**

## Centralized Purchasing; City Property.

(a) The council shall, by ordinance, prescribe procedures for a system of centralized purchasing for the City of Sandy Springs.

(b) The council may sell and convey any real or personal property owned or held by the City of Sandy Springs for governmental or other purposes, at a public or private sale, after due advertisement, for such consideration as it shall deem equitable and just for the city.

(c) The council may quitclaim any rights it may have in property not needed for public purposes upon report by the city manager and adoption of a resolution, both finding that the property is not needed for public or other purposes and that the interest of the city has no readily ascertainable monetary value.

(d) Whenever, in opening, extending, or widening any street, avenue, alley, or public place of the city, a small parcel or tract of land is cut off or separated by such work from a larger tract or boundary of land owned by the city, the council may authorize the city manager to execute and deliver, in the name of the city, a deed conveying said cutoff or separated parcel or tract of land to an abutting or adjoining property owner or owners in exchange for rights of way of said street, avenue, alley, or public place, or in settlement of any alleged damages sustained by said abutting or adjoining property owner. All deeds and conveyances, so executed and delivered, shall convey all title and interest the city has in such property, notwithstanding the fact that no public sale, after advertisement, was or is hereafter made.

**SECTION 7.22.**

## Audits.

(a) There shall be an annual independent audit of all city accounts, funds, and financial transactions by a certified public accountant selected by the city council. The audit shall be conducted according to generally accepted accounting principles. Any audit of any funds by the state or federal government may be accepted as satisfying the requirements of this charter. Copies of all audit reports shall be available at printing cost to the public.

(b) As a minimum, all audits and budgets of the city shall satisfy the requirements of Chapter 81 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., relating to local government audits and budgets.

**SECTION 7.23.**

## Homestead Exemptions.

(a) There is granted a homestead exemption for each resident of the City of Sandy Springs of \$5,000.00 on the resident's home which the resident owns and actually occupies as a residence and homestead, such exemption to be applicable to all ad valorem taxes levied by the City of Sandy Springs, except ad valorem taxes to pay interest on and retire bonded indebtedness.

(b) Each resident of the City of Sandy Springs who is 65 years of age or over or who is disabled is granted an exemption from all City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes in the amount of \$10,000.00 on a homestead owned and occupied by such resident if such resident's adjusted gross income, together with the adjusted gross income of the resident's spouse who also resides at such homestead, does not exceed the maximum amount which may be received by an individual and an individual's spouse under the federal Social Security Act. As used in this subsection, the term "adjusted gross income" shall have the same meaning as defined in the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, except that for the purposes of this subsection, the term shall include only that portion of income or benefits received as retirement, survivor, or disability benefits under the federal Social Security Act or under any other public or private retirement, disability, or pension system which exceeds the maximum amount which may be received by an individual and an individual's spouse under the federal Social Security Act. The homestead exemption provided for in this subsection shall apply to ad valorem taxes levied to pay interest on and retire bonded indebtedness of the City of Sandy Springs.

(c) In order to qualify for the exemption provided for in subsection (b) of this section because of disability, the person claiming such exemption shall be required to obtain a certificate from not more than three physicians licensed to practice medicine under Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the O.C.G.A., relative to medical practitioners, as now or hereafter amended, certifying that in the opinion of such physician or physicians such person is mentally or physically incapacitated to the extent that such person is unable to be gainfully employed and that such incapacity is likely to be permanent.

(d) Applications for the homestead exemptions provided for by this section shall be processed in the same manner as other applications for homestead exemptions, and the provisions of law applicable to the processing of homestead exemptions, as the same now exist or may hereafter be amended, shall apply thereto.



1 cast on such question are for approval of the Act, it shall become of full force and effect as  
2 provided in Section 8.03 below, otherwise it shall be void and of no force and effect.  
3 The expense of such election shall be borne by Fulton County. It shall be the duty of the  
4 superintendent to hold and conduct such election. It shall be his or her further duty to certify  
5 the result thereof to the Secretary of State.

6 **SECTION 8.03.**

7 Effective Dates.

8 This section and the provisions of this Act necessary for the special election provided for in  
9 Section 8.02 of this Act shall become effective only if an amendment to Code Section  
10 36-31-2 of the O.C.G.A., permitting incorporation of a municipal corporation less than three  
11 miles from another municipality's boundaries, is enacted, in which event this section and the  
12 provisions of this Act necessary for the election provided in Section 8.02 of this Act shall  
13 become effective upon the same date that such amendment to Code Section 36-31-2 of the  
14 O.C.G.A. becomes effective. The provisions of this Act necessary for the special election  
15 to be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 2001, as provided by Articles  
16 II and V of this Act shall be effective upon the certification of the results of the referendum  
17 election provided for by Section 8.02 of this article, if this Act is approved at such  
18 referendum election. The remaining provisions of this Act shall become of full force and  
19 effect for all purposes on January 1, 2002, when members of the first governing authority of  
20 the City of Sandy Springs take office as provided in Section 2.02 of this Act.

21 **SECTION 8.04.**

22 Severability.

23 In the event any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Act shall be declared  
24 or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall in no manner affect the other  
25 sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases of this Act, which shall remain of full  
26 force and effect, as if the section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase so declared or  
27 adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part hereof. The General  
28 Assembly hereby declares that it would have passed the remaining parts of this Act if it had  
29 known that such part or parts hereof would be declared or adjudged invalid or  
30 unconstitutional.

31 **SECTION 8.05.**

32 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.

1

## EXHIBIT A

2 The corporate limits of the City of Sandy Springs shall consist of the following described  
3 territory of Fulton County:

4 Beginning at the northwest corner of the City of Atlanta, as the boundaries of said city  
5 existed on January 1, 2001, at the point when the northerly city limit line of said city  
6 intersects the westerly county line of Fulton County and the Chattahoochee River, running  
7 thence generally easterly along the said northerly city limit line of the City of Atlanta,  
8 following the meanderings thereof, to the point where said line intersects the Fulton-  
9 DeKalb County line; run thence northerly, generally easterly, and generally northerly along  
10 the easterly county line of Fulton County at the point where the Fulton-Gwinnett County  
11 line intersects the Chattahoochee River; run thence generally west and southwest along the  
12 southern bank of said river, following the meanderings thereof, to the point of beginning.

1 EXHIBIT B  
2 COUNCIL DISTRICTS

3 District No. 1

4 Fulton

5 Tract 101.03

6 Blocks 803 through 814

7 Tract 101.04

8 Block Groups 1 through 3 and 5

9 District No. 2

10 Fulton

11 Tract 101.04

12 Block Group 4

13 Tract 102.02

14 Blocks 119 through 123

15 Block Group 9

16 District No. 3

17 Fulton

18 Tract 102.02

19 Blocks 103, 105, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114 through 118, 124, and 125

20 Block Group 2

21 Blocks 301 through 307

22 District No. 4

23 Fulton

24 Tract 101.03

25 Blocks 101 through 106 and 109 through 115

26 Blocks 201 through 203 and 207 through 209

27 Block 309

28 Block Groups 4 through 7

29 Blocks 801 and 802

30 District No. 5

31 Fulton

32 Tract 100

33 Blocks 103 through 105

34 Those parts of Blocks 106 and 109 outside the City of Atlanta

35 Blocks 121 and 122

1           Block 415  
 2           That part of Block 416 outside the City of Atlanta  
 3           Tract 101.01  
 4           Block 101 through 103 and 115 through 118  
 5           That part of Block 120 outside the City of Atlanta  
 6           Block 131  
 7           Blocks 201 through 209 and 211 through 213  
 8           Tract 101.03  
 9           Blocks 206, 210, and 211  
 10          Blocks 301 through 308  
 11          District No. 6  
 12          Fulton  
 13          Tract 102.02  
 14          Block 308  
 15          Block Groups 5 and 6  
 16          Blocks 702 through 706, 709, and 710  
 17          Block Group 8  
 18          District No. 7  
 19          Fulton  
 20          Tract 101.01  
 21          Blocks 106 through 114, 121 through 125, and 128  
 22          Block 210  
 23          Tract 102.01  
 24          Block 107, 111 through 114, 120, and 121  
 25          Blocks 201 and 202  
 26          That part of Block 203 outside the City of Atlanta  
 27          Block 204  
 28          That part of Block 205 outside the City of Atlanta  
 29          Blocks 206 through 209  
 30          Those parts of Blocks 210 and 212 outside the City of Atlanta  
 31          Blocks 213 and 214  
 32          That part of Block 215 outside the City of Atlanta  
 33          That part of Block 303 outside the City of Atlanta  
 34          Block 304  
 35          That part of Block 305 outside the City of Atlanta

1 District No. 8

2 Fulton

3 Tract 98

4 Blocks 106 and 107

5 That part of Block 111 outside the City of Atlanta

6 Block 127

7 Tract 102.01

8 Blocks 101, 104, 106, 109, 110, and 115 through 119

9 That part of Block 315 outside the City of Atlanta

10 Block 316

11 Block Group 4

12 Blocks 501 through 507

13 Block Group 6

14 Blocks 701 and 702

15 That part of Block 703 outside the City of Atlanta

16 Blocks 704 and 705

17 That part of Block 715 outside the City of Atlanta

18 Tract 102.02

19 Blocks 309

20 Blocks 401, 403, 405, 406, and 409 through 417

21 Blocks 707 and 708

22 As used in this Exhibit B, the terms "Tract," "Block," and "Block Group" shall mean and  
 23 describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of the  
 24 Census for the United States decennial census of 1990 for the State of Georgia. Any part of  
 25 the City of Sandy Springs which is not included in any such district described in this exhibit  
 26 shall be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least  
 27 population according to the United States decennial census of 1990 for the State of Georgia.  
 28 Any part of the City of Sandy Springs which is described in this exhibit as being in a  
 29 particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such district if such part is not  
 30 contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead be included within that  
 31 district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United  
 32 States decennial census of 1990 for the State of Georgia. Except as otherwise provided in  
 33 the description of any council district, whenever the description of such district refers to a  
 34 named city, it shall mean the geographical boundaries of that city as shown on the census  
 35 map for the United States decennial census of 1990 for the State of Georgia.