

House Resolution 2007

By: Representatives Ashe of the 56th and Kaiser of the 59th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and commending M. M. (Peggy) Harper; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, M. M. (Peggy) Harper has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for
3 the vital role that she has played in leadership and her deep personal commitment to the
4 welfare of the citizens of the City of Atlanta; and

5 WHEREAS, this second generation community activist gained invaluable experience during
6 her high school years as a participant in the "Work-Place-Folk" program and a study abroad
7 program through which she witnessed first hand the impact community development and
8 community decline can have on different areas; and

9 WHEREAS, after high school, she became active in the civil rights campaigns of the 1960's
10 and helped to start the Florida Black Student Union before moving to Atlanta where she
11 became involved in the construction of the East-West line of MARTA as an employee of
12 Parson, Brinkerhoff and Tutor's Train Control Signal Division; held administrative and
13 program management positions at Georgia Institute of Technology; worked in corporate
14 recruiting, marketing, and human resources for several Atlanta based Fortune 500
15 companies; and managed a \$2.5 million self-administered benefit program for a Wisconsin
16 based company with employees in six states; and

17 WHEREAS, this shining star attended Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia through the
18 Return-To-College (RTC) program where she participated in the Global Awareness program,
19 earning a scholarship to study economic development in the Republic of China; had her
20 paper chosen for presentation for the 1988 State of Georgia Undergraduate Conference on
21 Asian Studies; was the first RTC participant to hold an editorial position on the college's
22 newspaper and to hold the elected positions of historian and president in the Student Black
23 Awareness Association; and brokered an agreement with the school's administration to allow
24 a free standing display on African American history in the lobby of the school's classroom
25 building throughout the year to display the accomplishments of black Americans; and

1 WHEREAS, she now diligently and conscientiously devotes innumerable hours of her time
2 and energy to the betterment of her community and state through community economic
3 development and human capacity development as evidenced by her having held several
4 offices in her neighborhood organization, the Mechanicsville Civic Association, including
5 historian and representative to the Atlanta Community Empowerment Corporation's Board
6 of Directors and her current position of Economic Development Chairperson; and

7 WHEREAS, as the Mechanicsville neighborhood's representative to Fulton County's Romae
8 T. Powell Juvenile Justice Center Project, she was a member of the committee to select the
9 architect, the builder, and the artist for the lobby's public art; and

10 WHEREAS, she also facilitated a partnership between the Fulton County Office of
11 Workforce Development and a community agency to provide candidates for construction
12 employment in order to meet Fulton County's requirement of "one resident hired per million
13 dollars spent" for all capital improvement projects and served as the liaison between the
14 agency and the project's contractors; and

15 WHEREAS, she has tirelessly given of herself to others by actively participating as a
16 member of the Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU-V) for which she served as the
17 corresponding secretary from 2000 to her election as vice president in 2003 and subsequently
18 as President, a capacity in which she served with the faith and confidence of her peers for
19 two terms after filling an unexpired term; and

20 WHEREAS, the Atlanta Planning and Advisory Board was fortunate to have such an
21 illustrious individual become a member as NPU-V's representative, serving on the board's
22 City Utilities Committee and as corresponding secretary, president, and representative to the
23 Board of Directors of the Atlanta Renewal Community CoRa, Inc.; and

24 WHEREAS, the passion and efforts of this unbelievably talented woman on behalf of her
25 community are unparalleled and have been recognized through her receipt of numerous
26 honors and awards such a nomination for the WXIA Community Service Award, the 2001
27 Concerned Black Clergy of Metropolitan Atlanta's "Woman of the Year," the Annie E.
28 Casey Foundation Atlanta Civic Site's nomination for the Community Recognition Award,
29 and the 100 Black Women's Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter 2006 Unsung Heroine Award; and

30 WHEREAS, this gifted speaker is a highly sought after presenter who has often participated
31 in seminars and workshops sponsored by various groups including Morehouse College,

1 Morehouse School of Medicine, Hands On Atlanta, The Sierra Club, Clark-Atlanta
2 University's DuBois Institute, and the City of Savannah's Metropolitan neighborhoods; and

3 WHEREAS, she is a founding appointee to the Pharmacy and Outpatient Services Advisory
4 Board for Grady Hospital and the Fulton County Strategies for Healthier Communities Task
5 Force, serving as Chair of the Harriet G. Darnell Strategies Task Force Tax Subcommittee;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, she is also a member of the State of Georgia Historic Preservation Division's
8 Georgia African-American Historic Preservation Network, sitting on its steering committee
9 during calendar years 2002-2004; and

10 WHEREAS, this woman of remarkable drive and energy was also appointed by Atlanta City
11 Councilmember Cleeta M. Winslow to represent Council District 4 on the Atlanta City
12 Council's Gentrification Task Force in 2000 and most recently was appointed to the Friends
13 of Mills Board of Directors, which provides support to the Helene S. Mills Senior
14 Multipurpose Center; and

15 WHEREAS, she is a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for
16 integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness; and

17 WHEREAS, as a community activist and role model for people from all generations and
18 walks of life, she brings honor to the City of Atlanta, the State of Georgia, and our country;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, in all that she is and all that she does, she truly sets a higher bar for the rest of
21 us; therefore, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
22 distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
24 the members of this body honor and commend Peggy Harper for her significant contributions
25 and service as a community activist and leader and as an outstanding citizen for the City of
26 Atlanta and the State of Georgia.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
28 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Peggy Harper.