

House Resolution 386

By: Representatives Oliver of the 82nd, Gardner of the 57th, and Abrams of the 89th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Julie R. Ralston on the occasion of her retirement; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Julie Ralston has long been recognized by the board, staff, volunteers, and
4 partners of the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for her dedicated efforts on behalf of
5 the agency; and

6 WHEREAS, Julie has devoted more than 31 years of service to ARC, joining the agency in
7 1985 as a Communications Coordinator in the Office of the Executive Director, and was
8 promoted to various positions over the years to her current position as Director of the Center
9 for Strategic Relations; and

10 WHEREAS, she led and coordinated efforts among three different divisions of ARC in the
11 fields of community engagement, government relations, media relations, editorial, graphic
12 design, web development, and video production; and

13 WHEREAS, Julie guided the evolution of the State of the Region Breakfast, an annual event
14 that has grown to attract more than 1,300 attendees and has become a signature event for
15 metro Atlanta's leaders and decision-makers; and

16 WHEREAS, she found many innovative ways to deliver ARC's message to new and diverse
17 audiences over the years, including: leading VISION 2020, one of the largest community
18 engagement programs in the nation; creating and producing a quarterly television program,
19 "The Shape of Things to Come"; establishing the Model Atlanta Regional Commission, a
20 youth leadership program now in its twentieth year that has graduated more than 1,000
21 teenage leaders; leading ARC's New Voices program as it engaged several hundred
22 Millennials in long-term planning for the Atlanta Region's Plan and in its current outreach
23 to international residents in the Atlanta region; and

24 WHEREAS, Julie has served in many leadership positions outside ARC, including as
25 president of the Olmstead Linear Park Alliance, the Emory Public Affairs Advisory Board,
26 and the Clifton Corridor Community Partnership Advisory Committee; and

27 WHEREAS, she is a graduate of Leadership DeKalb, the Regional Leadership Institute, and
28 Harvard University's program on negotiation and conflict resolution, and in 2011, she
29 received the George Goodwin award for community service from the Georgia Chapter of the
30 Public Relations Society of America; and

31 WHEREAS, throughout her career at ARC, Julie has demonstrated a commitment to the
32 Atlanta region and has worked to strengthen relationships among partner agencies, ARC
33 board members, and local jurisdictions in metro Atlanta; and

34 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
35 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
37 the members of this body recognize and commend Julie R. Ralston for her dedicated public
38 service to the Atlanta region and the State of Georgia, congratulate her upon the grand
39 occasion of her retirement, and extend the most sincere best wishes for her continued health
40 and happiness.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
42 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Julie
43 R. Ralston.